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Alexandria Community Bi-Centennial



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Briefly Told

July 9 To 14, Inclusive

PRICE, \$1.

CHARTERED AUGUST FIRST, 1920

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In Memory of All War Veterans

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Bi-Centennial
of the
First Settlement
at
Site of Alexandria
July 9 to 14, Inclusive

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PROGRAM

SATURDAY, JULY 9

FIREMEN'S DAY

SUNDAY, JULY 10

HOMECOMING DAY

MONDAY, JULY 11

YOUTH DAY

TUESDAY, JULY 12

FARMERS AND LIONS DAY

WEDNESDAY, JULY 13

BI-CENTENNIAL DAY

THURSDAY, JULY 14

PREPAREDNESS DAY

APPRECIATION

As General Chairman of the Alexandria Bi-Centennial Celebration, I desire to extend my gracious thanks to the various committee members who have co-operated so splendidly in planning for the history-making event.

I also wish to express my appreciation to the citizens who have assisted in so many ways; to the merchants, business and professional men and to others who have helped make possible the Anniversary Booklet.

Let's make the occasion a memorable one by welcoming former residents and visitors to our beautiful community.

We trust everyone will enjoy the various programs and events planned for our Bi-Centennial observance.

R. B. SIMPSON

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALEXANDRIA!

We salute the residents of Alexandria through the years for their interest in their youth.

The evidence of active Boy and Girl Scouting in a community is a sign of a community interested in the character building of its young people. The earliest indication of the Scouting program in Alexandria was the group of boys, who with John Itinger, camped at Heller's Mill around 1912. This was not a registered troop but was the forerunner of the community's organized interest in its boys and girls.

Today's interest is quite obvious in the initial section of the Alexandria Scout House, built and being maintained through community support. This building is truly a living tribute to those who have invested their valuable time and sincere interest in boy and girlhood.

In congratulating Alexandria for its Community Spirit, may it be suggested to those, who have received the benefits of the program and who now are grown-up, that they reinvest their time and effort in the present generation of boys and girls—the men and women of tomorrow.

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FOREWORD

This Alexandria Area Bi-centennial Booklet is not supposed to be an absolutely complete and unabridged digest history of the region. It owes much to the recollections and records of residents, to Mr. Hoenstine of Hollidaysburg and to histories and reference books, such as J. S. Africa's History and the Juniata Valley History. These are available in the libraries to all who are interested. The area has been the home of many prominent people, native and otherwise. Not all can be mentioned. Living persons are in most cases purposely omitted.

MRS. GRACE ATHERHOLT

BOROUGH OF ALEXANDRIA

Incorporated 1827

Alexandria, Pennsylvania

It is my pleasure to extend sincere greetings and a most hearty welcome to everyone attending the Alexandria Bi-Centennial celebration.

We are fortunate to be able to celebrate the two hundredth anniversary of the granting of the land for the present site of Alexandria.

While you are helping us celebrate we invite you to visit our Memorial Free Library, our Community-Scout Building, our Firemen's Hall, the Legion Home, the Churches and our Schools.

We have an excellent water system and ample transportation facilities, both by rail and highway.

There are many beautiful home sites and locations for future industries and you will find that we are close to many recreation areas.

It is my wish that your visit with us will be perfect in every way and that you will find Alexandria's hospitality is unsurpassed.

John W. Metzgar

President, Borough Council

When the first white settlemeents were made on the Delaware River, the majority of Pennsylvania was occupied by Lenni Lenape, meaning **original people**, a clan of Algonquin stock, called Delawares by the English. Algonquin tradition told of their coming from the West and upon arriving at the Mississippi River being joined by the Iroquois, with whom they fought their way through the Mound Builder country east of the great river, moving eastward in waves over a long period of time. The Munsee Indians of the Wolf Clan of the Delawares were most numerous in our region.

The Iroquois Indians, a powerful tribe belonging to the Five Nations, lived along the Finger Lakes in New York State, hunting down the Delaware and Susquehanna Rivers for a great distance. For many years they fought relentlessly with the southern tribes. The Susquehannocks, of Iroquois race and language, probably came into Pennsylvania by a southern route, settling about 1600 along the Susquehanna River.

The Shawnees of the Algonquin tribe, the Tuscaroras of the Iroquois who joined the Confederacy to make the Six Nations, the Conoy Indians of the Algonquin and other groups and families lived along the Juniata River in later years as they followed the Kittanning Indian trail westward. The Indian trail or war path passed the Standing Stone, then crossed the Juniata River to take a short cut to Alexandria, where it recrossed the river and continued to Kittanning on the Allegheny River.

In 1635 there was a tremendous struggle when the Susquehannocks and the Lenni Lenapes fought for the possession of the Tussey Mountains. In the battle, which Colonel Henry W. Shoemaker says was equal to any of the great conflicts of the Civil War in the fierceness of the fighting and the number of the men engaged, the Susquehannocks were victorious. The Lenni Lenape, thus subject to the Susquehannocks, became subject to the Five Nations when the Susquehannocks in 1677 had their warriors carried away from Shackamaxon by the victorious chiefs and warriors of the Five Nations.

For over a hundred years these Delawares were treated as subjects in land sales—thus being driven from their homes—, and derided as women, who were “under protection and must not meddle in wars but stay in the house and mind council affairs.” In 1727 the Iroquois chiefs said to the Delawares, “Now we will put

petticoats on you and look upon you as women for the future,” thus marking complete subjugation. Less than thirty years later the Delawares reached the end of their patience with the temporizing Proprietaries and the oppressive Five Nations, became defiant and joined the French, marauding the settlers who occupied what they felt were their own hunting grounds, unfairly sold from them. The signal defeat of Braddock, “profligate, arrogant, perverse and a bigot to military rules,” destroyed their respect for English power.

In 1674 William Penn, a zealous young Quaker, had—while a trustee of West Jersey—opportunity to become familiar with the value of the tract of land lying across the Delaware River. At the death of his father, Admiral William Penn, it was discovered that the British Government owed him for money loaned and services rendered the sum of 16,000 pounds Sterling. Instead of money William Penn suggested a grant of land on the western side of the Delaware River, north of Maryland. A formal petition was presented to Charles II in June 1680 and, after many conferences with adjacent proprietors, on March 4th, 1681 the King granted the charter. Thus Penn provided an asylum for freedom of worship for his fellow Quakers.

After long drawn out boundary difficulties, Penn, his heirs and assigns became proprietaries of all lands within the bounds described in the charter, and upon him and his heirs, their deputies and lieutenants was conferred the executive authority of the province. In October 1682 Penn arrived in the **Welcome** and soon divided the lands of the province into counties; Chester, Philadelphia and Bucks. In 1729 Lancaster was formed, then York and, on January 27th, 1750, the sixth county, Cumberland, was erected, taking from Lancaster all the lands lying within the province to the west of the Susquehanna River and north and west of the county of York.

The Proprietaries, having respect for the rights of the Indians, would not permit any occupation of these lands, either by settlement or by grant from the land office, until after the Indian title had become vested in them. Burnt Cabins is named for the destruction by Conrad Weiser, at the command of the proprietaries, of cabins unlawfully erected by squatters. At this time the Indians still possessed all land northwest from the Susquehanna River and the Kittatinny Mountain, the northern barrier of the Cumberland Valley.

At a treaty conference at Albany in the summer of 1754, negotiations resulted in the purchase of the Indian title from the chiefs of the Six Nations by deed, for four hundred pounds lawful money, to Thomas and Richard Penn of all lands now included in Perry, Fulton, Bedford, Huntingdon and Blair Counties and as far as the western boundary of the state. The Indians, fully realizing the immense stretch of country covered by the bounds set in the treaty, were dissatisfied so that in 1758 an adjustment was made releasing to the Indians some of the westernmost part of this territory. This made the frontier slightly safer for a time.

Before settlement was permitted, Indian traders had followed the Kittanning path to the West and such fortified posts as Aughwick were built. According to Lytle, the only men furnished to Braddock from Pennsylvania came from what is now Huntingdon County, from Aughwick under Croghan. Braddock's scorn for practical advice led them to desert him.

Cumberland County was subdivided to make Bedford County, from which on September 20, 1787 Huntingdon County was formed. In 1804 Cambria County was carved from Huntingdon County and in 1846 Blair County further reduced the size of Huntingdon County, which now occupies the basin of the Upper Juniata, formed by Stone Creek, Shaver's Creek, and Spruce Creek flowing into the Little Juniata, the Frankstown Branch or the Raystown Branch.

In 1755 James Starrat bought one of the four warrants, mentioned by J. Simpson Africa, for the land on which Alexandria now stands. The others were one including the upper end of Smithfield, the whole of Bryan's farm and some adjacent land in Walker Township; another, the farm on the northeast side of the Juniata River, above Warrior's Ridge station; and one on the Juniata below Alexandria.

For a period of seven years the land west of the Tuscarora Mountains was very quiet. There was no demand for land because of danger from the Indians. The Proprietaries' concession in 1758 led to a false sense of security for the settlers but to no sales until 1762, and then often merely for speculation by eastern men. Early in the summer of 1763 new depredations led to the removal of settlers from the Juniata and its tributaries. In 1766 many applications were made, warrants issued and surveys returned. By the close of 1767 all the best lands had been taken.

In January 1788 Colonel John Piper proposed raising a force of one hundred and sixty

men to be stationed at five different points in Bedford County, thirty of them to "guard the inhabitants of Hart's Log Settlement and Shaver's Creek." This, like other attempts at the time to persuade the authorities to protect the frontier settlements, failed. Later on Colonel Piper wrote a letter describing the Tory conspiracy led by John Weston of Canoe Creek Valley. Weston so overacted his part that he was scalped by the very Indians whom he had tried to enlist in his cause, and his followers were dispersed.

The Revolutionary War was fought and won and the Constitution of the United States was adopted in spite of violent opposition to it in Huntingdon County, probably because of misunderstanding. The Eighteenth Century drew to a close in peace and plenty, looking forward to prosperity and improvements.

The land warranted by James Starrat in 1755, located on the north bank of the Juniata, seven miles west of Huntingdon, on the old Hollidaysburg turnpike, at a place known as Hart's Log, became the property of Zachariah Gemmill. At his death Alexandria was laid out by his wife, Elizabeth Gemmill in August, 1793. The original plan consisted of one hundred lots so disposed that each lot was two hundred feet in length and sixty feet in front, except those on the river and four around the public square, which were somewhat shorter. These lots were subject to a ground rent, which was to begin on September first, 1793. The annual rental of lots on Front Street was to be one dollar; on Second Street, two-thirds of a dollar; and on Third Street, one-half dollar each. (All ground rents were outlawed in 1920).

The streets named above ran parallel with the river and had intermediate alleys, each twenty feet wide. Running at right angles with these were South Street and Hart's Log Street, each forty feet in width.

The plan was duly attested to for the proprietress by David Stewart on August 7, 1798 and recored the same day. On July 10, 1847 Dr. James Trimble's "Addition" to Alexandria was recorded on the sworn testimony of Jacob Kough, who had been present at the sale of lots and had seen Dr. Trimble write the name of the purchaser as was indicated in the recorded plan. These lots were in the upper part of the Addition on the turnpike above the Methodist church, and now are near the western line of the borough.

On April 11, 1827 the town was incorporated as a borough. The bounds of the borough were to "comprise the original plan of the town and a number of lots adjoining the same, bounded on the north side by the public road leading to

Dorsey's Forge and on the south side by lands belonging to the heirs of John Gemmill so far as to include a four acre lot formerly the property of Elizabeth Brown, now laid out into village lots."

The schoolhouse was designated as the place for holding the first election, when one burgess and five councilmen should be chosen, who were to become a body corporate. The act contained a proviso whereby no borough tax was to exceed one per cent of the valuation of the property within the corporation. The Council was empowered to appoint a clerk and other necessary officers. In the absense of the burgess, the first-named councilman was to discharge the functions of that office. The act also provided that the borough should not be separated from the township in the holding of general elections and in the support and care of the poor. The village records prior to 1854 have been lost.

The names of the principal settlers of the town were those of the pioneers. These people

have always been enterprising and civic minded. From its foundation in 1755 it was a center of commercial activity, beginning with the arks laden with grain, then continuing with the rafts of timber, followed by the old stage coach and Conestoga wagon; after which came the canal and finally the railroad.

In an official "List of Post Offices in the United States" issued in August 15, 1805, Alexandria is included as "distant from Washington 218 miles." The first mail was carried once in two weeks, taking four days from Huntingdon to Harrisburg; then, once in a week; later thrice weekly and now daily.

In 1809 the western end of the stage route was at Alexandria and during the winter of 1809-1810 the stage left the public-house of John Walker every Saturday morning at 4 a.m. and arrived at Waynesburg (now McVeytown) that evening on the way to Harrisburg.

In 1833 there were sixty-four dwellings of frame or of brick, two churches, eight stores, eleven taverns, one brewery and one distillery.

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WM. PENN HIGHWAY AT ALEXANDRIA

This probably reflects the good fellowship of canal days as the date is near that of Charles Dickens' account of his trip on the canal, through Alexandria, in his "American Notes."

In 1880 J. Russell Cross took a census of Alexandria, 484 people, and of North Porter township, 260 people in Barree Iron-works Village. In Alexandria there were three churches—Presbyterian, German Reformed, and Methodist, a fine school-building—designed and built by Jacob Baker in 1869-1870.

In 1907 the streets and houses were "illuminated with electricity, generated from the Blue Juniata at Hatfield's Dam." There was a station on the Hollidaysburg Branch of the Pennsylvania Railroad, inaugurated in the last months of 1900, three substantial churches, an excellent water system—the reservoir being located out in the Loop, silica brick works, a number of beautiful homes and a well-graded school system. Alexandria's being a borough had been an advantage especially to its schools. Furthermore, the town was fortunate in possessing a Memorial Free Public Library, dedicated on October 10, 1900, when people from a distance still had to come to town by way of Barree. Two outstanding descendants of the founder of the town, William Thompson and William H. Woolverton, presented it in memory of their mothers, Elizabeth Gemmill Thompson and Anna Maria Woolverton-Kinsloe, granddaughters of Elizabeth Porter Gemmill. The Library contains an auditorium seating 400, where many public and educational meetings are held, as well as reading rooms for adults and for children, not to mention almost 10,000 books on a variety of subjects.

In 1910 the census reported a population of 432; in 1920, 440; in 1930, 443. In 1931 the Alexandria Water Company served 240 homes and industries.

Porter Township, formed November 1814 from "all that part of the old township of Huntingdon south and west of the Juniata," was named "in consideration of the distinguished uprightness of the late General Andrew Porter, surveyor-general, as a public officer and of his services during the Revolutionary War."

In 1827 Walker township was taken from Porter, but territory from West township was added to extend Porter across the Little Juniata to include the Barree Forge property. The township is of very irregular shape; on the

NE it follows the Juniata, on the NW Tussey Mountain, Blair County and Walker township on the south. Both branches of the Juniata cross the northern part of the township and unite a short distance above Petersburg.

Hart's Log Valley with its many fine old farms occupies the center of South Porter township. Much of the soil rests upon a limestone base and with proper cultivation is very fertile. This attracted early settlers. In 1772 Charles Caldwell lived at "Charles' Fording" of the Juniata. Farther south lived Robert Caldwell and John Tussey. On the north side of the Frankstown Branch lived John Bell, William Travis, James Dean, Moses Donaldson and Thomas Johnston. Opposite them lived Peter Graffius and John Mitchell. A little later John Spencer, Lytle, Bowers and Williams settled in Hart's Log Valley. After the Revolutionary War John Williams occupied Lytle's farm.

In 1815 Porter township (present Porter, Walker and Juniata) is credited with 22415 acres of "seated" lands and 20309 acres of "unseated" lands. There were 38 houses on village lots and 32 vacant lots. There were 77 men other than farmers. There were 3 grist mills, 4 saw mills, 7 distilleries, 3 tanneries, 1 hemp mill, 1 fulling mill, 1 carding machine, 1 brewery. There were 47 unmarried freemen.

In 1880 the population of the township including Alexandria was 1523, without that borough, 1039.

Petersburg, on the main line of the Pennsylvania Railroad, six miles west of Huntingdon, was laid out by Peter Shoenberger on May 21st, 1795. The borough is located on the east side of Shaver's Creek opposite the site of Fort Anderson. A post office by the name of Shaver's Creek existed at an early date. The growth of the town was rapid during the period when the Pennsylvania Canal was in operation. Flour and saw mills were established and Juniata Forge employed iron-workers. Petersburg was incorporated as a borough on April 7th, 1830.

A post office was established at Petersburg in the spring of 1825, Valentine Wingart being post-master. The Main Line passed through Petersburg in 1850, thus gaining it the great advantage of good transportation.

In 1840 there were 196 inhabitants; in 1910, 705; in 1920, 691; in 1930, 627. This decrease was evident in the township of Porter as well: in 1920, 691; in 1930, 627.

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Geology and Topography

Natural Features of Alexandria and Vicinity

Alexandria at an altitude of 714 feet above sea level is situated near the center of Hartslog Valley and almost entirely surrounded by mountains. The morning sun casts the shadow of Warrior Ridge over the valley while the setting sun shadows the valley with Tussey Mountain. To the north is Round Top with an altitude of over 2100 feet and to the south is a spur of Tussey Mountain, from which an excellent view can be obtained of Hartslog Valley and its surroundings.

The Frankstown Branch of the Juniata enters Porter township by a gap in Tussey Mountain at Water Street and makes a great bend below Alexandria. The Little Juniata flows comparatively straight, crossing all formations at right angles, as at the Spruce Creek Gap in Tussey Mountain, to join the Frankstown Branch above Petersburg. At Water Street Gap the river bed is cut down to 740 feet and the Narrows are two miles long; near Barree the river cuts through to a depth of 1100 feet.

The geologic formation of the earth in this vicinity is of the Silurian period. All the mountains are sharp-crested ridges, running for miles in nearly straight lines and uniting one with another at the ends. Tussey Mountain runs northeast. The average height of the crest above the valleys is less than 100 feet and above tide-water nearly 2000 feet. Tussey characteristically has a bold terrace on one side, and consists of Trenton and Chazey Limestones and Calciferous Sandstone.

The Calciferous (Magnesium) Limestone quarried in this area is much older than the Lower Helderberg Limestone in which, and the Oriskany Sandstone just above it, fossils of small animals and fishes are found. From these various deposits the mineral industries

secure fire clay, glass sand, iron ore, ganister, lime and other mineral products.

In Porter township the top limestones come to the surface one half mile west from Jones' school house. The Phillips clay banks from which much clay was shipped to iron furnaces is nearby. Brown Hamatite ore found along the base of the clay beds in large quantities was once extensively mined one and a half miles north of the Phillips clay bank. In the main it was wash ore. Rock View, a great cliff of lower Helderberg limestone rising perpendicularly from the river to a height of nearly 400 feet overlooking Nefflands commands an extended view of Hartslog Valley. In the Loop is found fossil ore north of the river. In the Barree Station section a block ore in Short Mountain was too siliceous for use. Barree furnace and forge were built to work the fossil ore found north of the river, but toward the end were run principally on brown Hematite ore from Franklin township. Limestone was quarried near the furnace.

Warrior's Ridge is an outcrop of Oriskany sandstone extending northward to the Juniata at Petersburg. Pulpit Rocks beside the old turnpike, or Frankstown Path, are "a coarse-grained cemented sandstone, varying in color but generally of a yellowish-white with particles of bright flint. They have attained their curious appearance from the gradual effects of the atmosphere and rain, which washing out irregular fissures, have left standing lofty columns."

Iron ore, limestone, sandstone and silica operations have through the years brought wealth and economic possessions to the inhabitants of Alexandria and vicinity and will continue to do so for many years to come as the supply is unlimited. Agriculture pursuits brought a living and independence to those tilling the alluvial soil on well managed farms.

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Early Trails and Traders

The first trails in this section of the country were, probably, the buffalo trails made by the "woods" or Eastern American Bison, who crossed Warrior Ridge, where they had a "wallow" on what is now Hall's farm, to the Juniata near Bidwell's log house. Where there were buffalo, Indians soon followed: Monseys, Conoys, Nanticokes of the Lenni Lenape nation, Shawnees and Tuscaroras.

Trade with these Indians was largely by barter. A business so lucrative that the Indian Traders, at risk of life and property—read the story of John Armstrong for whom Jack's Mountain is named, as told in Jones' Juniata Valley,—were often first into new territory. Goods to be distributed among various Indian villages were commonly packed on the backs of horses, in a "train" or "brigade," which climbed the mountains, pushed through the thickets and forests and waded over the streams, as they followed the old Indian paths. Water Street was named by traders because the pass was so narrow and the mountains so steep that the best road through the gap was the bottom of the stream.

Most of the traders were rough, bold, fierce and truculent. A blanket coat or a shirt of smoked deerskin, a rifle over the shoulder, a knife and a tomahawk in the belt were ordinary equipment. The first such trader in this locality is John Hart, a German, who was licensed in 1744. Hart's Log Valley perpetuates his name. He established a trading post, near the Frankstown Path which crossed the river at this ford, probably near where the Alexandria Memorial Library now stands. Having hewed down a large tree, he cut notches in the trunk for troughs to feed and salt his horses. This was "Hart's Log." After pioneers came here, the place was referred to as Hart's Log Settlement. The present street beside the Library is named Hart's Log Street.

Hart was friendly with the Indians and esteemed by them and other traders, being referred to as "an old and much respected trader." His restrained, civilized behavior toward them and their squaws was evidently the exception rather than the rule among traders. Africa tells how some Indians passed down the river on a marauding expedition and, knowing Hart, went to his "sleeping place." Since they didn't find him there, they laid a tomahawk, painted red, on his log beside a small piece of slate on which rude hieroglyphics depicted "an Indian with a bundle on his back, over whose head were seven strokes and

whose belt was filled with scalps. In front of him the sun was rising and behind him was the moon." Hart is said to have interpreted this to mean that the Indians were on a raid but would spare him, having laid down the hatchet. The bundle meant plunder, the rising sun showed their direction, the strokes indicated the number of warriors and moon denoted their return at night. Having little wish to meet the Indians on the war path, Hart scratched the outline of a heart beside a pipe to indicate his peaceful intentions—and left. On his return next day, he found a number of pewter mugs and platters, of which the Indians had unsuccessfully tried to make bullets.

In the Pennsylvania Magazine, volume 37, page 37 we read in the Journal of James Kenney: "I was informed some time ago by Pack Horse Men that was at Tuscorawas that ye Indians there spoke very well of me and some young Delewares that was here signified that (it) was reported amongst ye Indians that all ye traders would cheat them but me and John Hart." Later on page 47: "John Hart's rum was carried into ye King's magazine by ye Colonel's order, Croghan having complained that he sold rum to ye Indians." Page 155: "John Hart says that there is 1500 Mingoes to come this way in a few days, said to be going against ye Cherokees, but so many coming at once is not very acceptable here, but is Indian news."

At times John Hart was trusted by the Indians to look after their interests, to guard their property of skins and to see that as nearly as possible justice was done them. Evidently there was some feeling of jealousy against the "old trader," who had such great influence among the Indians, "having brought Keecais's son, called ye Gentleman, over ye river and lodged at his house. He brought his skins over and yet ye Gentleman sent for me when come ashore and asked if we would buy them all, which I told him, 'yes;' so we had 110 skins, ye whole he had." Again James Kenney says, "So Hart took ye peltry and delivered them presents to ye value as he liked, I suppose; it was talked ye Indians were not very well satisfied, but they have no reason to blame anyone unless them that invited them on this idle errand."

In this case John Hart seems to have been turned to in an emergency. The Indians had been invited to bring in skins and prisoners when by some oversight the necessary authorities for Crown and Province were absent and

Croghan, who had invited them, possessed no presents for them. Hart acted as trader of the "peltry" for goods to be treated as "presents" in this emergency.

Peter Sheaver was licensed as an Indian

trader in 1744. He settled upon the west side of Shaver's Creek, near its junction with the Juniata at a date not known. He is said to have traded with the Indians from 1733-1755, when he was reported to have been killed by Indians near Tuscarora Valley.

Forts and Blockhouses

Fort Anderson

Building of forts in this locality began about the time of the Indian raids.

Fort Anderson was a blockhouse erected in 1778. It was built of heavy logs and was provided with loop-holes, from which the settlers could fire with comparative safety. It was situated on Shaver's Creek near the junction of the creek and the Juniata River, on the farm of William H. Lower, on a bank, about 75 to 100 feet west of a spring, 150 feet north of the public road from Alexandria to Petersburg—or possibly 300 yards farther west.

The creek, which flows through one of the most fertile valleys for which the section of the country is notable, takes its name from

Peter Shaver, who made the first settlement upon it, probably at the mouth of the creek. Before the Revolutionary War others settled there. In the neighborhood of his home Mr. Shaver met his death in a most singular manner. One evening he left his cabin at dusk to put his horse out to pasture. He did not return, but his absence did not create any special alarm as this was before the war and before any savages had appeared in the valley bent on murder. His family, having not found him by the following morning, made a search and found his body in a lane near the pasture but minus the head. The perpetrators of this most mysterious murder were never found even though a reward of 50 pounds for the head was offered by the family. The Indians were not blamed for the death by decapitation.

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Samuel Anderson, from whom the fort derived its name, was regarded as the most active and energetic man in Shaver's Creek Settlement during the Revolutionary War. He succeeded by his own exertions, aided by those of his neighbors from along the Creek and the Little Juniata, in erecting this blockhouse fort, which was occupied off and on while the war continued. Apparently the fort was never attacked by the Indians, who usually avoided forts, possibly deterred by the large garrison. This fort, however, was often disturbed by alarms, sometimes real, sometimes false.

Of one such alarm, J. Simpson Africa writes: "My grandmother, an early settler about the time of the Revolution, sought protection there. The inhabitants of the fort, after defending themselves for a long time against attacks of the savages, finding their supplies becoming exhausted, fled to Standing Stone Fort. In their flight two of the men named Maguire, were killed by the Indians and their sister, Mary Maguire—afterwards Mrs. Dowling,—who was guarding the cows, was chased by them. Springing from ambush, the Indians frightened the cows, who started to run. The foremost Indian caught her dress and imagined he had made sure of the victim, but she simultaneously grasped the tail of one of the cows, held on, her dress tore, and she escaped. She reached Fort Standing Stone half dead with fright, still holding onto the tail of the cow."



Fort Lytle

Fort Lytle, a stockade fort, was erected about 1777, in Porter Township, Huntingdon County. It was located on what is now known as the Knode farm, between Alexandria and McConnellstown, about two and a half miles from the former. A stockade fort was constructed by digging a trench 24 to 30 inches deep around the fort, then setting whole or split logs in the trench, of a thickness to be bullet-proof. The timbers extended 10 to 12 feet above the ground and were well rammed to make them firm. This fort was never attacked by the Indians, but its presence undoubtedly gave the settlers the desired security.

The location of the fort was the subject of some contention, and of bitter dissatisfaction to one of the settlers, Moses Donaldson. When the site was under discussion, some of the settlers urged the location of the fort on the Frankstown Branch, where Donaldson lived—now, Big Juniata Roller Mills,—while the majority preferred Lytle's place, probably be-

cause it would better protect the settlers of the lower Hart's Log Valley. Evidently Donaldson had no friendly feeling for Lytle; so, when it was decided to build the fort there, he vowed he would never seek its protection but go to Standing Stone instead. This foolish resolution cost him the life of his wife and two of his children.

Until the spring of 1778 he lived unmolested on his farm, but the Indian alarms becoming so frequent, he took his family to Standing Stone and remained there until the alarm was over. Some time in June he returned to his farm to make his hay. On the eleventh of June the presence of Indians was noticed near the mouth of Shaver's Creek by a girl hunting her cows. Five warriors were seen, who acted as if they were scouts for a large party. When the news was reported, the settlers were terrified and fled to the forts with all haste.

The same evening a convoy of canoes, loaded with lead from the Sinking Valley mines, in charge of a party of soldiers, landed at Anderson's Fort. The men were prevailed upon to remain a few days until the alarm was over. The same afternoon Donaldson was warned of the presence of these Indians and urged to go with some of the settlers to Lytle's fort. He positively refused to do so, but at once began to make preparations to go to Standing Stone and, putting his family in a canoe, proceeded down the river. When he arrived at the mouth of Shaver's Creek, the presence of the soldiers no doubt dispelled his fears and he tied his canoe to the root of a tree, while he and his eldest son, a lad of ten years of age, went to Anderson's house to transact some business, leaving his wife and two children in the canoe. In the course of half an hour the boy returned to the canoe, but when he came near he saw Indians taking out his mother and the two children. He ran to the inn nearby where the soldiers were, and told them what he had seen but was not believed. Then he hastened to Anderson's and told his father, who on hurrying to the canoe found the story only too true.

His wife and children had been taken captive almost within sight of the party of twelve soldiers, who having seen no Indians decided to have a holiday and then drank to such excess that they were in no condition to follow the Indians when Donaldson told them his distressing story. Early next morning the soldiers and settlers pursued the fleeing savages without discovering a trace of their course until toward evening, when they found the bonnet of one of the children northwest from the mouth of the creek, indicating the direction taken. Although a diligent search was maintained for a number of days, no trace could be found of the unfortunate woman and children.

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Their fate was not known until a few years later. While Thomas Johnson and Peter Crum were hunting in the Spruce Creek Valley, several miles above its mouth, they came upon a camp of friendly Indians where an old woman was boiling maple sugar. She said that she had been wanting to see some white people and had something to show them. She led the way, a half-mile farther up the valley, to some human skeletons, which proved to be those of a woman and two children. The news was sent to Donaldson, who buried the skeletons in the graveyard at the mouth of Shaver's Creek.

Some question arose as to this identification, but the matter was settled by a weaver of the neighborhood, who testified that a piece of cloth found near the remains belonged to a dress that he had woven for Mrs. Donaldson. The Indians probably feared that the soldiers would pursue them, so cruelly put their victims to death so that they could the better make their own escape. Although hostile Indians afterwards passed through the township, alarming the settlers, no depredations occurred near Fort Lytle. After a few years Donaldson left Porter township, his farm becoming the property of William Stewart. The son, who was with his father when the other children were carried away, became a tanner and lived to be an old man, dying at Lock Haven.

Peter Crum, mentioned as one of the finders of the skeletons, operated Minor's grist mill on the Little Juniata. Early one morning in August of 1781, he was returning home from starting the mill, carrying his rifle over his shoulder and a string of fish for breakfast in his other hand. Hearing the crack of a rifle, he looked up the hill and saw two Indians. In a flash he had dropped the fish and opened the pan of his rifle, but his hand had been hit and the blood moistened the priming so much that he could not use it. Seeing this, the Indians rushed in, killed and scalped him. After his body was found, the Indians were pursued. They had escaped to the British garrison at Detroit, where his was the last scalp received and paid for.



Earliest Settlers

The first real settlers in the Juniata Valley were the Caldwells. Robert and Charles Caldwell, brothers, born in County Derry, Ireland, of Scotch parentage. They emigrated to America and lived for a time near Greencastle, Pa. In the summer of 1754 they left there to explore the upper Juniata Valley, taking the Tuscarora Path, by way of Burnt Cabins, Shade Gap, Black Log, Croghan's Fort—then a mere

stockade,—Jack's Narrows and Standing Stone, and selected homesteads in what is now Porter Township.

After building rude log huts, they returned in the spring of 1755 with their families and all their possessions on pack-horses, made their new homes, in what is now called Hart's Log Valley, and remained there unmolested until 1778, when the Indian troubles began.

Robert settled on the Little Juniata, near where the Barree Ironworks were afterward built. The land then taken by him extended along the south side of the river from near where Barree Station now stands to the farm later owned by David Neff.

Charles settled on the south side of the Frankstown Branch of the Juniata, opposite the present town of Alexandria, about where the "furniture barn" now stands.

There were no white women west of Aughwick at the time that Robert and Charles brought their families to Hart's Log Valley. They were undoubtedly the first white settlers in this section of the Juniata Valley. Other white men, Indian traders and hunters, had preceded them in the pursuit of their livelihoods, but the Caldwells were the first white men who with their families maintained a continuous residence in the valley west of Jack's Narrows, and tradition says that the first white child born in this part of the country was a Caldwell.

The brothers and their families lived on the most friendly terms with the Indians until the Revolutionary War broke out. Owing to their isolated position, they were subjected to many and severe trials. However, being courageous and ever on the alert, they were equal to the emergencies of the times. In the end they had the satisfaction of seeing the red men banished from the valley, independence secured, and their families living in peace and quiet.

They had only once gone to the fort during the Indian troubles. Logan, a chief among the Indians of the Juniata Valley, had come at dusk to the house of Charles Caldwell. He being away, Logan told Mrs. Caldwell that the family must go to the fort at once as the Kittanning Indians were on the war-path, and on a certain day would overrun the whole valley and plunder and murder all the white settlers they found. He begged her to go at once and not to tell who warned her, since the hostile Indians would kill him for doing so.

Mrs. Caldwell sent word to Robert's family and began preparations for immediate departure. On the arrival of her husband, they left for the fort, where families and stock were

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safely housed. On the day named by Logan, the war-whoop of the Kittanning Indians resounded through the valley, and plunder, rapine and murder were the order of the day. Many of the settlers who had not sought safety in the forts of the valley were massacred and their homes pillaged and burned. This raid lasted only a short time, and after the Indians departed, the families left the fort, returning to their homes, which they successfully defended during the remaining years of the Indian troubles.

This hardihood, bravery and determination of the family had been shown when, in the fall of 1755 or 1756, Mrs. Charles Caldwell, having been working outdoors during the day, found on starting to prepare supper that the fire had gone out and there was not a bit of punk or flint with which to strike a light. Matches were as yet unknown and the Juniata River flowed between her home and Robert Caldwell's three miles away. No canoe was at hand, her husband having used it to cross over in the morning and left it on the other side for use on his return. Determined not to wait, she crossed the river, by wading or by using the Indian stepping stones still to be seen at low water, walked to Robert's house, obtained a burning brand and some live coals, carried these to her home, and so relighted the fire on her own hearthstone.

The Caldwells were stanch Presbyterians and among the principal subscribers to a fund for the erection of the first church, or meeting house, in 1786 on the site of the memorial in what is now called the Hart's Log Cemetery, about a mile north of Alexandria. There Robert who died in the fall of 1799, is buried. Charles had died in the spring of that year, but his widow lived until 1821. Their son, "Captain David" was of note in the valley and carried on the same interests. His cousin, Robert's eldest son, "Major" David, married Rebecca, a daughter of Matthew Dean of Canoe Valley, who was one of the four children in the cornfield with their father when his wife and the rest of the family were murdered by the Indians in 1780, and who fled with her father to Lytle's Fort. David Caldwell was commonly called Major David because of his rank in the Pennsylvania militia. He was active in public affairs.

Samuel, the youngest son, married Mary, eldest daughter of Israel Cryder, May 16, 1826, and moved to Water Street. There he successfully carried on an axe factory until 1842, when he moved to Franklin.

Early Settlers

On the north side of the Frankstown Branch lived John Bell, William Travis, James Dean, Moses Donaldson and Thomas Johnston. John Tussey lived to the southward, near Robert Caldwell. On the south side of the Frankstown lived Peter Graffius and John Mitchell. A little later John Spencer, a man named Lytle, a Bowers, and a Williams also became settlers in Hartslog Valley.

John Tussey had three children: David, John and Mary—who married Samuel Anderson and moved to Indiana county.

John Spencer, a native of Ireland, came to Porter township when a young man some time before the Revolution. In that struggle he held the rank of major. He lived just below Alexandria, dying there in 1820. His oldest sons, twins, were John and William. John was in command of a company in the war of 1812.

Jeremiah Cunningham, son of Robert Cunningham an early settler, married Martha Spencer, who lived and died in Shaver's Creek Valley. Their son David, of Porter township, was born in 1801. As second wife Jeremiah married Eleanor Bowers and reared four children. Hugh and Robert lived in Hartslog Valley. The daughters married William Robb and John Robb.

The Hugh Cunningham place in Porter township was improved by John and Mary Bowers, natives of Ireland. John died about 1780 and was buried in the old Canan graveyard. Below the Bowers place lived the Lytle who built the fort. There John Williams lived from about the close of the Revolution until his death in 1804. This is now the Knode farm.

Farther down the stream lived John Canan, a most enterprising citizen, on what was later the Sprankle farm. He owned large tracts of land and was engaged in numerous enterprises. Col. John Canan became a citizen of Williamsburg later in life but was buried in the Canan graveyard on the farm belonging to his brother Henry, later the property of Collins Hamer. He died in 1832. His oldest son, Moses, commanded a company in the war of 1812.

Another early settler was Jacob Laird, whose son William, born March 14, 1779, lived and died, March 27, 1852, on the place. William was reared by his uncle, Samuel Isop, after his father's early death. Laird married Ann Drennan in 1799, and after her death a second wife, raising fifteen children in all.

John, son of Thomas Whittaker, an early settler, lived in Porter township and carried on several distilleries near Alexandria. He was

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Col. John Huyette was born in Porter township October 9, 1808. His grandfather, Louis Huyette, emigrated from France, settling in Washington county, Md. His son John Huyette, father of the Colonel, came in 1795 to Hartslog Valley, at eighteen, to take possession of land, then practically a wilderness which his father had bought for him under deed from William and Thomas Penn. He cleared some land and built a log cabin where "Stone Hall" stands now, near a large, never-failing spring.

About 1797 Mr. Huyett married Elizabeth Grove, who had come with her brother, Jacob Grove, from Lancaster county, at the age of 17. Young friends from Maryland often visited them, riding on horseback. In 1812 Stone Hall was built. Here he died in 1833, she in 1845.

Except for three years from 1851-3, Col. Huyett always lived at Stone Hall, working the farm himself. During the three years at Neffs Mills, West township, he was employed as railroad contractor. He was interested in the ownership of steam saw-mills along the Rays-town and at Fostoria, the first in the county, supplying large quantities of timber and lumber for the canal and railroads. Having lost heavily in railroad contracting, he retired to the farm. He was the first to introduce grain-reapers into this part of the state about 1847. The reapers then required four horses to draw them, going at a full trot to do good work, farmers coming from ten to twenty miles away to see the wonderful machine.

He was the pioneer in this section in manufacturing syrup from sugar cane, or sorghum. After much experiment, he succeeded in producing sugar of very fine quality. Had he lived, he would probably have entered largely into the manufacture of sugar from corn and cane, adding a new agricultural interest in this section of the country.

At first a Whig, later a Republican—at its organization,—he filled various town offices and at one time was a candidate for the lower house of the State legislature.

Nov. 25, 1834 he married Anna C., daughter of Samuel and Susannah Keller Harnish, whose grandfather Christian Harnish was an early settler of Morris township, where she was born Jan. 8, 1817. They had eleven children. Col. Huyett was a natural mechanic who could manufacture almost any tool or mechanical device that he needed to use. Generous, hospitable, especially to the poor, musical, he was a delightful companion, often rising early to play old tunes on his violin. When his doctor told

him that he had few hours to live, he answered "I am ready," and died peacefully on Sunday morning March 12, 1882, being buried in Hartslog Cemetery March 14, 1882.

George Buchanan, another early settler in Porter township, was the father of Dr. John A. Buchanan, a doctor in Alexandria from the beginning of the village to his death in the fall of 1824.

Benjamin Neff, born Sept. 13, 1816, was the eldest of the nine children of Andrew and Elizabeth Grove Neff. The Neffs had emigrated from Germany to Lancaster county. Grandfather John Neff with a younger brother, Jacob, moved with their families to Logan township; John on the place later owned by W. W. Stryker, Jacob settling on the Juniata River on a farm later owned by his grandson Benjamin K. Neff. All their children married and raised families in the neighborhood of Alexandria and Petersburg. John Neff helped each of his children to a farm. His son Andrew died at his farm along the river when Benjamin was only seventeen but as eldest had to take responsibility for the farm and the family.

John Leffard, a German "redemptioner" after working out his time for William Smith, D. D. of Philadelphia was brought to Huntingdon, where he lived for a few years then moved to Porter township, living last in the "Loop." His three daughters married Daniel Isenberg, Enoch Isenberg, and Peter Piper, all of Porter township.

Thomas Hamer came from Lancaster county in the early 1800's and settled on a farm, later owned by major John Zentmyer, in the southern part of Porter township, where he reared nine sons, one of whom—William—was drowned while fishing in 1829.

Andrew McClure came from Wikes-Barre at the age of nineteen to make a home in Porter township. He married Sophia Shively and raised three sons and three daughters. His son William became an outstanding farmer and business man.

Where Alexandria now is, two young Scotchmen, Matthew Neal and Hugh Glover, kept a small store selling chiefly whiskey. Naturally there were many free fights causing the place to be called "Battle Swamp."

Elizabeth Gemmill, the widow who laid out Alexandria, lived in a small brick house near the canal lock until her death in 1823. Her son Zachariah, killed by the kick of a horse about 1812, had a son Zachariah, drowned near Philadelphia. Other sons were Dr. Jacob M. Gemmill and John Gemmill. One daughter married Nicholas Cresswell. Ann, daughter of Eliza-

beth Gemmill, married Thomas H. Stewart who came to Alexandria in 1803, dying there in 1831. He was father of John G., Thomas H., Robert, Dr. Zachariah G., George H. and William B. and daughters who married the Rev. James Thompson, Charles Woolverton and Rev. Shaver.

John Walker was one of the first settlers of Alexandria, being an inn-keeper and an active business man.

Thomas Porter came to Alexandria before 1800, building a house near the public square where he died in 1803. His widow married Dr. William Jackson of Alexandria, living in the same house later owned by Wm. S. Walker, one of the oldest buildings in the town, now torn down. John Porter, son of Thomas, was born in Alexandria Sept. 9, 1797 and died there March 24, 1881, one of the oldest men of the county and an active business man. His youngest brother married Anna Dorothea Bucher and lived in Alexandria until his death in 1877.

Their son Thomas was a noted botanist and preacher.

Michael Cryder, miller, moved from Lancaster to Huntingdon in the fall of 1771 and the next year bought a warrant for land about two miles above the town, including water power rights on the Juniata, where he had a grist-mill and saw-mill. In 1778 the hardships of frontier life were increased by Tory treachery against the patriotic man and his sons. One of the sons on going to the mill found on the front door the placard, "This mill belongs to Gen. Howe." Being a wealthy man, Michael Cryder was appointed a deputy commissary for the Continental army. Bent on doing his full duty, he accepted the practically worthless "Continental" money, pledging his personal credit to obtain the needed provisions and forage. When the war ended he found himself heavily indebted, but by thrifty and careful management of his business and the sale of the greater part of his lands paid off all his obligations and in 1796 took his family to Scioto, Ohio to start anew.

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Conrad Bucher, born in Lebanon county, son of the Rev. John Conrad Bucher, a chaplain in the Revolutionary war, came to Alexandria about 1800 as a hatter, and prominent business man. He died there in 1851 at the age of 71. His wife, Hannah Mytinger, niece of Lewis Mytinger, reared two sons and five daughters. Dr. John Jacob married a daughter of the Rev. James Thompson and died in Alexandria. George Conrad, who married Susan Scott died Feb. 3, 1868 from a strange accident at the Petersburg bridge. He was in the hack which ran from Alexandria twice daily to Petersburg, carrying passengers and mail for the train. The hack was on runners because of the deep snow, the horses ran away down Cryder's Hill, the sled slewed and threw him over the abutment, breaking his neck. Daughter Maria married John Porter; Ann, Charles Porter; Susan, Dr. Daniel Houtz; Eliza, single; Hannah, Dr. William Swope; Caroline, John Hatfield, of Chester county, father of Charles Hatfield of Alexandria.

John Scott, a Scotch Irishman, came to Alexandria about 1812, carrying his shoemaker's tools in a kit on his back, working first according to custom around among the farmers. He soon established a shop in the town and later carried on a tannery there, at the rear of the Phillips building. He became a member of the 21st Congress, being active in politics as well as business. By his first wife, Miss Davis, his children were Dr. Oliver G. Scott of Birmingham, Mrs. John Gregory of Alexandria, Eliza and Rebecca who both died unmarried. By his second wife, Nancy Irvin, the children were Susan, wife of John C. Bucher; the Hon. John Scott, later United States Senator, born in the "little blue house" in 1824; George, founder of the Agnes Scott College in Decatur, Ga. in

memory of his mother; and Alfred who died of yellow fever in the South.

Thomas Dorris, a stone mason living on Second Street was a worthy pioneer. His daughters married Alexander Newell, William Walker and William D. Shaw. A son William became a wealthy merchant in Huntingdon.

William Walker occupied one of the first cabins of the village. His son William was a house-carpenter, whose sons were Thomas, Robert, William S. and George H.

Israel Graffius, son of Peter Graffius one of the early settlers on the Frankstown Branch in Porter township, became one of the most honored citizens of Alexandria, where he died Dec. 4, 1879, aged 89. He was a copper smith but later became an iron-founder.

George Wilson, an early cabinet-maker of Alexandria, was one of its most useful citizens. He was the father of Dr. Jeremiah Wilson, an artist of considerable reputation; Dr. J. T. Wilson, a prominent physician of Tyrone; Captain George Wilson who died in the army and David S. Wilson, ex-sheriff of Water Street.

Half a mile above the village of Alexandria Thomas Johnson lived as early as 1770, owning a large tract of land in the northwestern part of Porter township. The family kept one of the first public houses in these parts, which was discontinued about 1813 and destroyed by the 1838 flood.

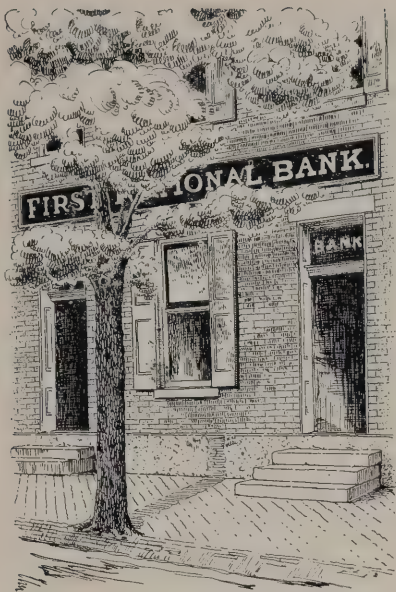
On the north side of the Little Juniata Jacob and Josiah Minor were early pioneers. After making the first improvement of the water power where Barree Iron Works stood, they moved elsewhere.

Transportation

The Indian traders were the first white men to penetrate the wilds of the valley of the Juniata over the only "highways"—the trails of the Indians. These were only wide enough to permit the passage of a man on foot, a pack-horse or a horse and its rider. These trails crossed the country in various directions, much as do today's older roads.

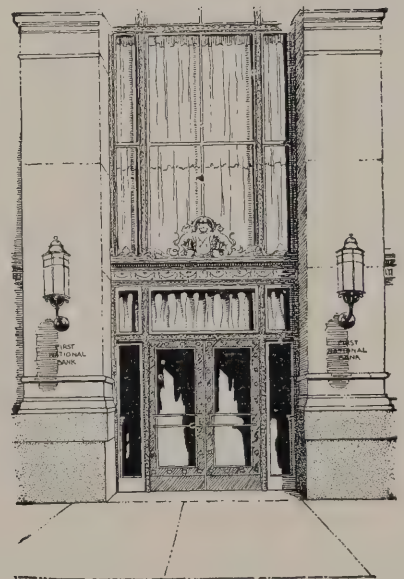
The chief thoroughfare from the middle colonies to the Indian country was from Philadelphia northwestward. It entered Huntingdon County near Blair's Mills; went along the Trough Spring branch of Tuscarora Creek, through Shade Gap—"Shades-of-Death," so

called because of the number of violent deaths on that narrow, hemlock-darkened stretch of road; north along Black Log Valley to the "Black Log"—a large log blackened by traveller's fires, in or near the gap east of Orbisonia; through Shirleysburg, then called Aughwick Old Town or Fort Shirley; crossing to the northern bank of the Juniata above Mount Union; crossing the Juniata again at the lower end of Cypress Island to the south side, over Warrior's Ridge; fording to the north bank of the river at Hart's Log—Alexandria; thence by way of Water Street and Canoe Valley to Frankstown and points west. This was known as the Frankstown path.



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MEMBER FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

As soon as peace was made with the hostile Indians, the adventurous fur traders hurried over the mountains to be first in the wilderness market. These traders were a rough, bold, intractable class, often as fierce and truculent as the Indians themselves. A blanket coat or a frock of smoked deerskin, a rifle over the shoulder, a knife and a tomahawk in the belt completed their ordinary equipment. To live to be called an "old trader," as was John Hart, showed unusual stamina. The trader would establish headquarters in some goodsized Indian town and trade blankets, red cloth, guns, hatchets, liquor (forbidden by the Proprietaries) tobacco, paint, beads and hawks' bells for furs of the Indians.

In the backwoods most traveling was on foot or on horseback. It was hard for a new comer with his clumsy long rifle to urge his horse between the thick trunks of trees and through underbrush or to make any speed along the narrow Indian trails as the hanging branches switched him across the face. At night camp would be made by some stream or spring. His food was usually what he could shoot. If it rained, a shelter of elm or basswood bark was the work of an hour, a pile of evergreen boughs formed a bed and his saddle or knapsack a pillow.

Often a party of Indians journeying through the forest would be met—a chief or warrior with his squaws and family. The Indians would usually camp near the white men and at meal-time would sit by the traveller's fire and gaze solemnly at the food. If, when the meal was over, bread or coffee were offered him, the Indian would take these highly prized rarities with a grunt of thanks, for he combined an inordinate pride with a childish love of gifts.

Conrad Weiser's journal lists routes and distances over some of these paths. Thirty miles was a day's journey.

The rapid settlement of Alexandria and surrounding country was caused by its location along the banks of one of Pennsylvania's interior rivers, the Juniata, since settlement then followed the streams. There was a good bit of travel by canoe in a broad, shallow stream like the Juniata. Before the Revolution there was rafting and flat-boat travel, especially at flood times, and later arks laden with grain.

The Assembly on March 9, 1771 passed an act declaring a number of rivers and creeks "public streams and highways for the purposes of navigation up and down the same." The Juniata with its branches to Bedford and Frankstown was included in the provisions of this act. All obstructions and impediments to passage up and down them were to be deemed nuisances. After a lapse of 23 years, the Little

Juniata, from its mouth to the head of Logan's Narrows was declared a public waterway.



Water Ways

When the white settlers came into the region, they found the Indians using canoes so adopted them. Soon something larger was needed and the batteau followed. There is record of the Juniata being used for transporting surplus farm products as early as 1794. In that year an ark* built by the enterprising miller Kryder, told of elsewhere, was loaded with flour and floated down the rivers to Baltimore. His success caused the building of many arks for use when the water was high enough to carry loads of flour, grain and whiskey to market. From 1797 to the coming of the canal keel-bottom boats were popular. At the same time large flats or flat-boats, which carried much greater tonnage than the arks, transported down the river huge loads of produce, such as beef, pork, grain, lumber, etc. Coming up stream, these boats were poled, usually by four or six men, who placed their poles on the river bottom at the front end of the boat and walked its length, consecutively changing places to keep the boat in continuous motion. Rings had been placed in rocks in the river where there were falls and with the use of ropes and windlass the boats were drawn up over the falls. Several iron rings remain at the Iroquois Falls in the Juniata.

The first public road through Huntingdon County was petitioned in 1772, 1773, and 1774 before action was taken in 1775. Thirty-three feet wide, it began at the end of Standing Stone Mountain below the mouth of Standing Stone Creek and went by way of McConnellstown to Everett, with a branch that came from the lower end of Water Street Narrows by the way of Hart's Log, crossed the Juniata, passing near the house of Charles Caldwell, and continued through Hart's Log Valley into Woodcock Valley. The Revolutionary War halted roadmaking generally. In 1788 a road that branched from the Hart's Log road west of Pulpit Rocks and led to the settlements on the river above Petersburg was known as Graffius Road. One of the early roads was petitioned by the Hart's Log Congregation in June of 1790 "to extend from Charles Caldwell's fording place on the Juniata to the Rev. John Johnston's meeting house in the forks of the Juniata. At the same time the congregation peti-

*—An ark was a type of float 75 x 100 feet long, 15 to 20 feet wide and 3 to 5 feet deep. There were vertical bulwarks and v-shaped bow and stern. It was propelled at times and steered by side-sweeps.

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tioned for a road to the forks of the Juniata from the lower end of Water Street. Both roads were ordered by September 1790 plus one from Ricket's Ford, less than two miles from the meeting house.



Turnpikes

As traffic increased with the growing population and their needs, better transportation facilities were required. An act was passed February 24, 1806 appointing commissioners to open books and receive subscriptions of stock to the "Harrisburg and Pittsburgh Turnpike Road." But not until February 15, 1815 were letters of incorporation issued and officers elected. The making of that section of road lying between the west end of Front Street, Alexandria, and the lane that led from David Stewart's house to the big road was advertised to be let on the February 25 following. In September 1818, nearly four years after Governor Snyder granted a charter of incorporation to the Huntingdon, Cambria and Indiana Turnpike Company, forty miles remained uncompleted, between Huntingdon and the crossing of the Big Conemaugh. The portion between Huntingdon and Alexandria was the last completed.

Other companies were from time to time authorized to be incorporated to construct transverse roads: April 14, 1834, Brown's Mills to Alexandria; April 4, 1863, Hart's Log Valley; April 20, 1850, Petersburg and Shaver's Creek; April 4, 1864, Petersburg and Reedsville, among others. A plank-road was constructed between Barree station and Alexandria after February 27, 1854.



Stages

The first effort to run a line of stages into the county was made in 1808. "Subscribers beg leave to inform the public that on the third day of May next their stage will commence running from Harrisburg via Clark's Ferry, Millerstown, Thompsontown, Mifflintown, Lewistown, Waynesburg and Huntingdon to Alexandria once a week, to leave the house of Mr. Berryhill, Harrisburg every Tuesday at 1 p.m. and arrive at Alexandria on the Friday following; returning, leave Alexandria every Saturday morning and arrive at Harrisburg on Tuesday morning. N. B.: Horses and Chairs will be procured at the different towns for those passengers who wish to go off the road or proceed further than Alexandria."

In April, 1828 this line of stages commenced running daily between Harrisburg and Pittsburgh. The mails were then carried by it three times a week, passing through Alexandria on Sundays, Wednesdays and Fridays. The Juniata Mail Stage during the whole of its existence had many of the difficulties to contend with that had been encountered by the post riders who preceded it. The weather was no less treacherous nor the floods less frequent in 1832 than in 1800. The mails were some times several days late.

Just when the turnpikes had enabled the stagecoach to be "more desirable as a means of travel" a rival appeared which robbed it of a considerable part of the patronage of the traveling community. In 1831 the first canal boat arrived at Huntingdon and in 1832 the first "packet" floated down Standing Stone Creek, upon which it had been built, and took its place upon the newly constructed canal for the carriage of passengers. In the bow was a cabin for ladies, at the rear one for gentlemen, twenty to thirty tons of freight could be carried in the space between.

In January of 1825 newspaper publicity in favor of a canal from Philadelphia to Pittsburgh was begun because "turnpike roads had had their day." (What would they think of today's "Pennsylvania Turnpike"?) A convention representing nearly all the counties of the state was held in Harrisburg on August 4, 1825, John Scott of Alexandria being one of Huntingdon County's two representatives. After full discussion the linking of the Susquehanna with the Allegheny and Ohio, the Allegheny with Lake Erie, was voted indispensable. The Pennsylvania Canal was authorized by the act of February 25, 1826. In 1828 an act provided for the location and construction of a canal from Lewistown to the highest point expedient and practicable on the Juniata, requiring surveys for a route from Huntingdon to Johnstown, connecting the Juniata and the Conemaugh by canal or railroad. It was finally determined to build the canal to Hollidaysburg and a railroad over the mountains.



Canals

The committee to celebrate the opening of the Juniata section of the canal included Joseph Adams and Wm. Walker of Petersburg, John Cresswell and John Porter of Alexandria. On Tuesday 28, 1832 salutes were fired by the citizens of Alexandria and replied to by cannon from the John Blair as it passed through. John Scott of Alexandria presided at the public meet-

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HUNTINGDON, PA.

ing held when the packets reached Hollidaysburg at sunset of the next day.

Charles Dickens in his "American Notes" describes his journey from Harrisburg to Pittsburg over the Pennsylvania Canal in 1842. The "express" packet, carrying chiefly passengers, is described as a "barge with a little house on it." Inside a section for the ladies was partitioned off by a red curtain. At night shelves, upper and lower berths for the men, were rigged up along the sides of the main cabin, where the small tables, put together for meals during the day, were the preferred beds at night. The menu at every meal was tea, coffee, bread, butter, salmon, shad, liver, steaks, potatoes, pickles, ham, chops, black puddings and sausages. After a rainy day and an uncomfortable night in cramped quarters, Dickens may, like James Buchanan, have stopped for breakfast at the Alexandria Inn, just below the locks and the pool, where winter repairs were made. (Now Baker's home.)

Dickens says—"there was much in the mode of travelling which I heartily enjoyed at the time and look back upon with pleasure. The running up bare-necked at five o'clock in the morning, scooping up the icy water, plunging one's head into it and drawing it out all fresh and glowing with cold was a good thing. The fast brisk walk upon the towing path between that time and breakfast, when every vein and artery seemed to tingle with health; the exquisite beauty of the opening day; the lazy motion of the boat, when one lay idly on the deck looking **through** rather than **at** the deep blue sky; the gliding on at night so noiselessly; the shining out of the bright stars—all these were pure delight.

"Then there were new settlements and detached log cabins and frame houses—cabins with simple ovens outside made of clay and lodgings for pigs nearly as good as many of the human quarters. The eye was pained to see the stumps of great trees in every field of wheat and great tracts where settlers had been burning down the trees and their bodies lay about like those of murdered creatures, charred and blackened. Sometimes at night the way wound through some lovely gorge like a mountain pass in Scotland, shining and coldly glittering in the light of the moon.

"We left Harrisburg on Friday. On Sunday morning we arrived at the foot of the mountain which is crossed by railroad. There are ten inclined planes: five ascending and five descending; The carriages are dragged up the former and let slowly down the latter by means of stationary engines; the comparatively level spaces between being traversed sometimes by horse and sometimes engine power. Occasion-

ally the rails are laid upon the extreme verge of a giddy precipice and, looking from the carriage window, the traveller gazes sheer down into the mountain depths below. The journey is very carefully made, however; only two carriages travelling together.

"It was very pretty traveling thus at a rapid pace along the heights of the mountain in a keen wind to look down into a valley full of light and sootiness; catching glimpses through the tree tops of scattered cabins, children running to the doors, dogs bursting out to bark, terrified pigs scampering homewards, families sitting out in their rude gardens, cows gazing upwards with a stupid indifference, men in their shirt-sleeves looking on at their unfinished houses, planning out tomorrow's work; and we riding onward high above them like a whirlwind."

Superior as was the canal for transportation it yet had many disadvantages: during the winter it was not navigable, storms and freshets often created breaches, etc.

The Juniata Line of canal boats running from Harrisburg to Hollidaysburg had four boats: the Delaware, Captain R. H. Morton; the Philadelphia, Captain I. L. Elliott; the Monongahela, Captain S. D. Carnes; and the Kishoquillas, Captain A. C. Clemson. Mr. Morton was soon succeeded by Captain G. W. Hooper. Captain S. H. Walters succeeded Hooper, who died of cholera. The completion of the Pennsylvania Railroad to Lewistown shortened the route and exchange of passengers was made there. This withdrew one boat from service. When the railroad was completed to Mount Union, the exchange of passengers was made there and another boat was withdrawn. Later the exchange was made at Huntingdon, to which the railroad had been built. On completion of the railroad to Hollidaysburg the boats were taken to Virginia and sold to a packet line plying between Richmond and Lynchburg.

The first fast packet boat was run on the Pennsylvania Canal in 1835. It was exclusively for passengers and was towed by three horses. All boats before that time had been slow packets with amidship for freight and the bow and stern cabins for passengers, the boats being towed by two horses. These Juniata boats were the Calder boats and were known as the "Pioneer Line." In 1837 an opposition line known as the "Express" was started but ran only one season, Mr. Calder buying it. During that season there was exciting rivalry, "the blocking of locks and the cutting of tow lines being part of the deviltry to delay the opposition." The names of other boats were South America and Comet, Rising Sun, etc.

A TOAST
To
ALEXANDRIA
And
ITS CITIZENS

Here's to wish you the best of health,
Here's to wish you joy and wealth,
Here's to happiness, peace and content,
A deal of friends and a life well spent.

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INSURANCE

REAL ESTATE

The Legislature of February 1899 voted to abandon the Pennsylvania Canal 176 to 4. The Juniata Canal had been abandoned in 1898 and the large aqueduct removed from across the Juniata above Duncannon in 1899. At Alexandria the canal was opened in 1828 and closed in 1889.



Early Railroads

Our early railroads were a mixture of various gauges and types of rolling stock, needing a long while to bring order out of chaos and produce dependable operation. The early trains were flimsy and the open platforms dangerous. Before "cow-catchers," trouble might be caused by striking a cow, disconnecting the brake hose between the tank and the first and smearing the engineer from head to foot with the black liquid so that he was almost unrecognizable—the cow was probably a complete loss.

In June of 1850 passenger trains came west as far as Huntingdon where passengers transferred to canal boats, and stage lines, making the trip from Philadelphia to Pittsburgh by railroad and boats in 53 hours and by railroad and stages in 40 hours. Instructions for engineers required the running time of fast passenger trains not to exceed "a speed of two minutes per mile" that of slow trains three minutes. Four minutes were allotted for each water stop and two minutes for each passenger stop.

A year later the railroad was extended to Hollidaysburg, 41 miles farther. Passengers changed at the foot of the Alleghenies. This extension gave Petersburg a station on the "main line." "The Pennsylvania's new line from Harrisburg to Pittsburgh was nearing completion, excepting the mountain section where Alleghany Portage, owned and operated by the state, formed the connecting link. The new company had leased the Harrisburg & Lancaster Railroad on April 21, 1849 whereby it became the owner of the rolling stock and machinery of the H. & L. and had exclusive right to run engines over the road. But its authority was limited to **through** business; local trade between Harrisburg via the Mt. Joy line, also between Columbia and Middletown via the line following the Susquehanna, remaining under control of the Harrisburg & Lancaster." Despite an agreement made with the Commonwealth the new railroad met disapproval at every turn, cars had to be narrow instead of wider and more comfortable. Height of tunnel might restrict that of cars, or the passengers might literally have to "walk the plank" (an eight-foot one was carried as stand-

ard equipment in each car so that at Dillerville passengers could cross from one car to another on an adjoining track of different gauge).



Diamond Valley Railroad

The Diamond Valley Railroad was a narrow gauge line, 14 miles long, once operating between Barree and Mooresville. It was built for taking timber from the region of operation, passenger service being established when it proved to be a vital need for the Upper Shaver's Creek Valley. The engine was from the Morrisdale Mines, called "saddle-tank" from the odd manner in which the tank spread over the top of the boiler. The box car came from a western railroad—"express car" in small lettering. The observation-like car with the canvas roof was a converted flat car. Thanks to the Pennsylvania Shop, this became by November 1889 the private car "Bessie," named for the mother of the owner David Gring. (Rebuilt under the supervision of Orlando Gibson, master mechanic.)

Bessie frequently carried railroad officials on outings in Diamond Valley. Once when engineer Benjamin Gring was ordered to couple back of the car and push it up sharp grades and around curves, he warned of the danger of derailment. His warning passed unheeded. Attempting to negotiate a dangerous curve, the car left the rails and turned over on its side. All was still for a moment. Then Sen. McAteer was heard to exclaim as his head and shoulders appeared from where a game of cards had been in progress, "Oh well, I had a poor hand anyway!"

The editor of the Saxton Herald wrote in April 1890: "As the train goes thundering along the mountainside, you are enraptured by the grandeur of the scenery. Far below in the rippling stream of sparkling, limpid water the sunbeams, sifted through the dense bracken, dance and glitter on the silvery surface. Vari-colored trout are to be seen darting hither and thither or basking in the bright sunlight. Farther on the train halts in a sylvan glen carpeted with myrtles and canopied by the dense branches of the towering pines. This place is named Crystal Springs."

Great plans for the expansion of the service even to Greenwood Furnace and for connection to the Pennsylvania Railroad with daily passenger service and Adams Express Co. facilities were rumored in 1890. But the contract had allotted a specific time to take out the timber and in 1891 that time expired. On July 9, the Semi-Weekly announced: "The famous Diamond Valley railroad is no more."

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One section had such a steep grade that four flat cars were the limit that either engine could haul. Before passenger service fishermen often rode the "flats" to Globe Run. A camp-meeting at Mooresville installed seats on the flat car profitably. The observation car became later a combination baggage and passenger car.

"On the 6th track hand began tearing up track from Neff's Mills for a distance of four miles."

Some traces of the old road bed are still visible near Barree. In the forest are traces of what is mistaken for a lumber road with mules or horses as the motive power, not a steam road carrying passengers.

Taken from Albert M. Rung's article based on talks with Benjamin S. Gring, cousin of the builder and operator, David Gring. Illustrated by 1889 prints from glass-plate negatives lent by Norman E. Stryker of Tyrone, photo No. 2—Four Car Diamond Valley Train is best, published in the Daily News.



Carrying The Mail

When Cumberland County was founded in 1750 there was no regular postal service from Philadelphia nor did one exist at the time of the Albany treaty in 1754 or when the first settlers warranted lands a year later. Troubles with the Indians were chiefly responsible for the establishment in 1757 of a weekly horse-back post-rider "to better enable the governor and assembly to communicate with his Majesty's subjects on the frontier." The first regular post from Philadelphia to New York started in 1756 and from Harrisburg to Pittsburgh in 1786.

Just when the first route was established that carried the mails through here is unknown, but in 1798 Postmaster General Joseph Habersham issued proposals for carrying the mails once in two weeks over the following route: "From Harrisburg to Clark's Ferry, Millerstown, Thompsettontown, Mifflintown, Lewistown, Huntingdon, Alexandria, Bellefonte, Aaronsburg, Mifflinburg, Lewisburg, Northumberland and Sunbury to Harrisburg." Alexandria was the point farthest west on this route. "The mail to leave Harrisburg from Oct. 15 to April 15 every other Monday at 6 a.m. and return the next Monday by 7 p.m. Other seasons of the year in proportion to the day's length.

With the turnpike came the stagecoach, which continued to run until the advent of the packet boat—even then during the winter

months when the canal could not be operated. "A whip with four-in-hand" was then as much admired by the youngsters as an aeroplane is today. "So regularly did they run upon schedule time that residents of the wayside referred to their passing to set their clocks." The first stage was run May 3, 1808—destination Alexandria.

On May 26, 1817 and in 1819 J. Meigs, post master general, advertised for bids on carrying the U. S. mails over 71 routes in Pennsylvania, among them Route 68, from Harrisburg to Alexandria, twice a week, 100 miles, leaving Harrisburg every Tuesday and Saturday at noon to arrive at Alexandria every Thursday and Monday by 6 p.m.; leaving Alexandria every Saturday and Thursday at 6 a.m. to arrive at Harrisburg every Tuesday and Saturday at 9 a.m.

Upon completion of the Pennsylvania Canal in 1829-1830 a line of daily packets was put on from Columbia to Harrisburg and the mails came to Columbia by rail, to Harrisburg by packet and continued further by stagecoach. The packets ran until superseded by railway service.

At first there were no envelopes nor postage stamps. Postage stamps were first used in 1847. The postage rate had been set in 1790 at six cents per half-ounce for 30 miles and was graduated to 25c for 400 miles or more. The first reduction in rates was made in 1845, when the rate on letters became 5c per half-ounce for less than 300 miles and 10c for greater distances. In 1851 letter postage was decreased to three cents for distances less than 300 miles and in 1855 prepayment of postage was made compulsory.

With the coming of the railroads mail began to be carried in pouches to and from central distributing points; in 1864 the railway postal service was begun with the distribution of letters and other mail en route. The present system is the work of no one man but the result of experiment and many different men's ideas for over half a century, although the post-office idea is said to have originated with John Hamilton of New Jersey, son of Andrew Hamilton—governor of the Province of Pennsylvania from 1701-1703.

Alexandria was listed as a post office in 1807. In 1809 it was the end of the new stage route. David Henderson was hired, as a boy of fourteen, in 1811 by iron master Anshutz to carry mail from Huntingdon Furnace to Alexandria, "the nearest post office." In the spring of 1825 a post office was established in Petersburg with Valentine Wingart as postmaster.

COMPLIMENTS OF

J. C. Blair Company

Manufacturers

HUNTINGDON, PA.

Lewis Mytinger kept the first regular Alexandria post office in his store, succeeded by Conrad Bucher. John Walker had the office in 1811. Later appointees were John Porter, Henry K. Neff, Charles Porter, John N. Swoope, Henry Walker, John H. Kennedy 1861 and, in 1877, Charles P. Hatfield. In 1881 mail service from Petersburg came twice daily. Since August 15, 1881 Alexandria has been a postal money order office. Until 1919, when the new or present post-office came into use, the postmaster had the post-office in a store, usually his own. The

latter was the case with E. P. Walker who was postmaster in the early 1880's, in the store which is now Bowser's. The Spyker store was used by Harry Spyker, Alfred Spyker until 1906 when he became County Treasurer, and most of the others. Charles Hatfield probably used the Phillips store, some say the Shaeffer store. C. C. Roseborough, John B. Kean, Joseph R. McCrum, Frank K. Myers and Robert N. Lankard complete the list of appointed postmasters.

Early Industries

From the earliest days lumbering was a very important industry. The bark was peeled from the trees for the tanneries, then the logs were sawed at the mills or burned in pits for charcoal used in the iron-works. As towns and farms sprang up over the country, many sawmills came into existence and did a flourishing business. Tanneries were also at one time most important in county, township and town.

As the countryside was cleared of its heavy growth of original timber and more land was brought under cultivation, flour mills were built along the streams wherever sufficient water-power was available. These were profitable ventures until the great Western wheat and corn fields made competition too keen. One by one these mills were forced out of existence.

The needs of the people situated far from any source outside supply made them resourceful to a high degree, causing a vigorous search for raw materials and a practical method of transportation of these to a lucrative market. One of the developments was the erection of many distilleries. This was caused, not by a local demand for liquor, but by the greater ease with which liquor was transported than that of the grains from which the liquor was made and the greater profit gained from its sale in the eastern markets. John, son of Thomas Whittaker, carried on several distilleries near Alexandria. He was an old-fashioned gentleman who long wore the peculiar costume of Colonial times—knee-breeches and powdered wigs or cues,—yet was one of the most enterprising men of his time.

Iron ore was discovered in most parts of the county and township. Plenty of limestone together with "practically inexhaustible" supplies of timber made charcoal-iron a logical and practical article of manufacture. As early as 1795 a furnace was built in the Spruce Creek Valley and called Huntingdon Furnace, owned

by Peter Schoenberger. Many others followed. The iron industry flourished for many decades, some of the plants lasting well into the 20th century. Locally the Barree Forge of Dorsey, Green & Co. (Dr. John H. Dorsey and General S. Miles Green) and the Berwick Forge and Juniata Iron Works of the Hatfields were outstanding.

Although the people of Porter Township engaged chiefly in farming, manufacture always held an important place. In 1774 Jacob and Josiah Minor used the water power of the Little Juniata, where later stood the Barree Iron Works, to operate a very simple kind of gristmill which because of its age and peculiar construction was long preserved as a relic. The mill was operated in the later years of the Revolution by lessees, one of whom—Peter Crum—was killed by Indians. After 1790 Lazarus McLein owned the property. In 1795 Edward Bartholomew of Philadelphia became the owner of this and other local real estate which he turned over to his son-in-law Greenberry Dorsey, who came there to live. Late in 1796 or early in 1797, possibly in 1794, Bartholomew and Dorsey built a small forge, called Dorsey Forge near the mill, which was still in operation. This forge was the beginning of the Barree Iron Works. William B. Moore—"Barree Billy Moore"—was manager. In 1812 David R. Porter, son of Andrew Porter—a county resident in 1794 and later—an officer serving throughout the Revolution with distinguished honors and the personal commendation of Washington—for whom Porter Township is named, became a clerk for the Dorseys at Barree forge and later after election to various county and state offices, became governor of the state in 1839. After changes in the partnership, the firm name in 1834 was Dorsey, Green & Co., operating also Union Furnace and Mill Creek Furnace. In 1837 Edward Bell owned the Elizabeth Furnace and the Mary Ann Forge on the Little Juniata.

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In 1862 a furnace was commenced near the forge and put in blast in 1864 by G. Dorsey Green. It produced up to 60 tons of excellent charcoal iron per week. The improved forge yielded 30 tons of blooms per week. The grist-mill built in 1862 on the old Minor site had the capacity of any country mill.

Connected with the Barree Iron Works were about 13,000 acres of land in Porter and Franklin townships, much of which contains iron ore. From these banks the works were supplied. There were store-rooms and about 40 tenements for the 70 men employed. In 1875 A. L. Mumper of Bethlehem bought these interests but died the same year, when his son J. W. Mumper took charge. All proprietors sold merchandise to employees and after 1853 acted as postmasters. Shipping facilities were afforded by completion of the Pennsylvania Railroad and a station was built in 1875 for the hamlet with a population of around 260. Barree Furnace was shut down in 1882 and Barree Forge in 1884, and the old workers' homes were torn down.

Near the meeting of the Little Juniata with the Frankstown Branch of the Juniata, often called the forks of the Juniata, were a saw and chopping mill—operated by water-power—carding machines, and woolen factories which had various owners, among them George Eby and the Cryder family. The hill leading down to the site is still called Cryder's Hill.

A number of grist-mills and saw-mills were operated near Alexandria, both up and down the river. A short distance above the town was a merchant mill, operated by a fine power, built in 1833 by Jacob M., John and Zachariah Gemmill and long owned by Dr. Jacob M. Gemmill. It had four runs of stones and was a first class mill.

In 1836 Samuel Hatfield of Chester County bought 300 acres of land on the bend of the river below Alexandria to erect forges, etc. for the manufacture of iron. The following year he and his son built a dam across the river, acquiring a head of twelve feet as sufficient power for the Berwick Forge and Juniata Iron Works. The forge was on the south side of the river and consisted of six fires and one hammer. It was operated by Abraham Hatfield from 1838-1845 when it was sold to Samuel Hatfield, who put up a puddling mill. After about two years he moved the machinery to the site of the iron works below and on the opposite side of the river, about one quarter mile below the dam. The works at first comprised a rolling mill of 50 tons capacity per week for the manufacture of boiler-plate, sheet-iron, and assorted bar-iron. They were superintended in person by Samuel Hatfield, who lived in Porter township until 1842 when he

returned to Chester County, where he built other iron-works. Samuel Hatfield, Jr. then became superintendent of the works for as long as they continued in operation by the firm of S. & B. R. Hatfield.

The rolling mill was 60 x 150 feet. It was destroyed by fire in 1869 and never rebuilt. The puddling mill and forge were carried on until 1875, when the closing of the canal deprived them of transportation.

Samuel Hatfield was the owner of rich mines of fire clay discovered on Warrior Ridge in 1866, for which he employed ten men. The Clay Bank was later the interest of the Phillips family. A number of fine varieties of clays have been mined and shipped from various points on Warrior's Ridge between Huntingdon, Alexandria and Petersburg.

Another interesting industrial development was that of the making of silica, or ganister, brick at Alfarata Park above Alexandria, with an apparently unlimited supply of rock available.

With the discovery of a finer grade of iron ore in the Great Lakes region and improving transportation facilities, ore mining and iron-industry in the locality declined.

This iron industry had developed an unusual type of country life. Around the furnaces and forges grew up little communities of homes for the workmen, a store, churches, a blacksmith shop and the necessary industries. Situated in a choice spot would be the owner's or operator's, manor house, surrounded by wide lawns and sheltered by beautiful shade trees. Between these families grew up an intimate social intercourse marked by hospitality. Inter-marriage forged close ties and for generations these families made interesting local history. Some of these old homes still remain and, although owned by other than the original families, with the magnificent trees, shady walks and colorful gardens still remind us of the glamorous past.

In 1833 there were in Alexandria 64 dwellings of brick and frame, two churches, eight stores, eleven taverns, one brewery and one distillery. In the best period of the canal there were four warehouses owned by Bucher & Porter, Henry Neff, William Moore, Charles Porter and Gen. S. Miles Green.

The first regular store was kept by Lewis Mytinger, the first postmaster, in a building which stood in the lot later occupied by the Bucher house. Conrad Bucher succeeded him and later with John Porter formed the firm of Bucher & Porter. John Conrad Bucher was the youngest son of the Rev. John C. Bucher, a

native of Switzerland who came to America in 1755, fought in the French and Indian War and served as chaplain in the Revolutionary War for the patriot cause.

In 1846 W. M. Phillips of York, Pa. became a citizen of Alexandria. A grain buyer and commission merchant, in 1862 he occupied the Charleton building and after 1868 his own fine business house under the name of Phillips & Son, among the leading firms of the county at that time. When the canal was in operation, the Gregory house was also a store. After 1873 Charles P. Hatfield was a merchant in the town, and for a period E. P. Walker—there being three stores in 1881. The first drug store was opened by Dr. Daniel Houtz, a later one by Calvin Porter in 1868 at the same location, west of the bridge.

Among keepers of public houses was William Moore, in the low building opposite the IOOF building, in the early 1800's. Later landlords were Daniel Hewett, Thomas Lloyd and Christian Stemen. Farther up the street in a

similar building was the John Walker mentioned as a proprietor of the stage line and succeeded by his son John. John H. Stackpole and then Robert Carmon kept an inn there. In 1826 John G. Stewart kept an inn for about a dozen years. In the old Thomas H. Stewart house, about the time of the building of the canal, Robert Lytle ran a public house. Michael Sissler, John Odell and Perry Robinson succeeded him, and in 1854 Patrick McAteer. Later "The Old Canal House" was bought by William Woolverton. In 1860 the "Juniata House" was built by William S. Walker.

Henry Isenberg was one of the early blacksmiths, coming with his brother to the Alexandria area before bringing the families in 1804. The men also were carpenters and farmers. They were people of means as was shown by paying cash for their land. They were active in Keller's Church and in the Alexandria Christ Reformed Church. Others engaged in the lucrative and important blacksmithing were Joseph Douglass, John Kennedy, William Moore, Jr., and Abraham Piper. Where the

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Keystone garage now is, formerly a blacksmith-shop carried on by Erasmus Jones, "there was a journeyman named John Hansom, who killed John McClure in an altercation in the fall of 1831 by running a heated iron through his body. Hansom was convicted and sent to the penitentiary."

There were many excellent carpenters and cabinet makers in Alexandria. Many people still own excellent furniture made by Enoch Kline, who married the sister of Frances Baker. William Walker, a "house-carpenter," reconstructed for his own use the first cabin in Alexandria into a comfortable home still standing at the NW corner of Bridge and Main Streets, where Miss Lizzie Walker lived until recently and where Albert Rung visited his mother's people. William Walker built the Presbyterian Church, completed in February of 1851, for \$4958. The sheds to shelter horses of those who came from a distance cost an additional \$500, under separate contract. Samuel Martin, George Wilson, Job Baker, William Wilson, Jacob Baker, John Piper, Michael Baker, William Varner and S. Varner were also carpenters or, in John Cresswell's case, chair-maker. John, grandson of Robert who came from Ireland about 1785, learned the trade from Patrick Hays in Alexandria, where he later carried on the business alone. After a time as contractor on the Wabash Canal in Indiana, he returned and was appointed prothonotary by Governor Porter and later collected tolls on the canal at Huntingdon. In 1847 he began a merchantile business at Manor Hill but in 1853 removed to Petersburg, where he and his son had a merchantile and grain trade along the canal. In 1874, like all other activities around Petersburg, it was affected by the abandonment of the canal in the area.

Hatters in the early days were important as even making the trade in beaver skins and were among the outstanding men in the community: Lewis Mytinger, Conrad Bucher, George Mytinger, Samuel Spyker. Local iron-founders were Israel Graffius and R. C. Magill. Samuel Hazlet, Samuel Brisbin, Samuel Crampton, Charles Porter and William Jones were saddlers.

John Scott, John R. Gregory, William S. Henderson were shoe-manufacturers. James Maguire was an early shoemaker living near Alexandria on John Scott's farm in the Hartslog Valley. He died in 1838 by walking over the lock edge and falling into the canal after celebrating the election too well. David Henderson was also a shoemaker.

Zachariah Gemmill, Matthew Buchanan, George Hyle and George B. Young were silver-smiths. Thomas Dorris was a stone-mason who

built the "Stitt homestead," the second oldest house in town. Robert Stitt made spinning wheels there, having come up the river in a keel boat in 1797. Among the tailors were Stephen Itenger, Valerias Armitage, Joseph Montanye, Cyrus Wilson, Samuel Huey and Samuel Simpson Thompson, who learned the trade with his father and later established himself in Petersburg. He was a justice-of-the-peace for many years and held other local offices.

Thomas H. Stewart came to Alexandria in 1810, experienced as a tanner at Harris Mills, with at least one slave, Black Hatty. He built the first brick house in the town. An active Presbyterian he was sent to Philadelphia for the Presbyterian General Assembly. By backing notes he lost all of his and part of his wife's property but retained the respect of the community and the love of his wife and fourteen children. Peter Kane operated a tannery on the site of the present railway station. John Scott's tannery was near the river. Robert Lytle was also a tanner. The Stitt's tannery in 1838 had vats where the station yard is now and a bark shed where is the present fire-house. The bark was ground by horse-power. The Harnishes helped in operating the tannery.

Israel Graffius, J. J. Bellman, Wm. S. Walker, T. B. Thompson were tin and coppersmiths. "Chalk Walker also ran a candy store. R. Graffius and Clifford Graffius were tobacconists. Daniel had a carriage-works. The Pipers decorated, as painters, as well as made the whole carriage. Other wagon-makers were John Hanna, William Harner, Samuel Harner, Moses Canan, Jesse Scias and William Myers."

John Davis, near Barree, was a wood-chopper who cut and coated wood for forges. John Gaghegan was a farmer in the Loop who wore a suit of gray homespun woolens. Wm. S. Stryker, who attended the Octagon School, after teaching and farming in 1913 retired to Alexandria where he served many terms as school director and supervisor. Elisha J. Green was a pioneer in scientific farming as well as a keen business man in his lumber interests in the late 1800's. Hays S. Schirm, born August 29, 1863, on deciding to become a farmer purchased 528 acres in Porter township where he did extensive general farming and bred registered Holsteins.

Among the post-masters and store-keepers was listed John B. Kean, born August 13, 1868, who edited a local newspaper known as "The Alexandria Home News," a unique achievement. He was active in the Methodist Church, in Masonry, in the Grange and in the Modern Woodmen of America. Another post-master, Charles Hatfield, while attending Franklin &



COAL

BUILDING MATERIALS

CEMETERY MONUMENTS

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Marshall College serenaded President Buchanan. He was interested in astronomy and in plants and had a lovely old garden at the Bucher House, where he long lived as a recluse after the tragic death of his wife, two daughters and a son from tuberculosis. (His mother was a Bucher).

John Hilton Phillips, born in Alexandria, Virginia in 1797, settled in Alexandria in 1838, dying two years later. (Could that be the source of the name?) His only child, Wm. M. Phillips, born June 15, 1826, came with his parents and worked at various businesses: a small confectionery store, which grew into a large general store, was started about 1845; a tannery was operated successfully; the First National Bank of Huntingdon was organized where he served for thirty-two years, from the beginning, as director and many years as vice-president. On the death of William Dorris he became president. He was strongly opposed to slavery and warmly supported the Union cause during the Civil War. The building where the Phillips Fly & Tackle Co. now is, was then used as a base for making lint, bandages, etc. His son John Phillips and others initiated the Alexandria Water Co., securing to the town the great boon of pure water from the reservoirs in the Loop.

"Uncle" Phil piper operated a livery stable until the railroad came to Alexandria and drove the stage to meet the train in Petersburg. His office was in the building known as "The old fort."

William Thompson, only son of the Rev. James Thompson, was born November 14, 1823. When fifteen he left school and went to Pittsburgh to learn the printer's trade but dissatisfied returned to clerk at the Barree Iron Works. From 1855 to 1860 he led a life of dangerous adventure in the West. Returning then to Pittsburgh he found his life work and fortune in the oil field. In spite of so many interests elsewhere, he always cherished an especial fondness for Alexandria and with his cousin William Woolverton erected a fine library in memory of their mothers, and, as a sort of memorial to his father, paid for alterations and repairs to the Presbyterian Church.

William H. Woolverton, born in Indiana in 1842, after working as clerk, telegrapher, ticket agent and operator for the railroad, became a teller of the First National Bank of Philadelphia. In 1877 he became assistant to the general passenger agent of the P. R. R. in New York; next, president of the N. Y. Transfer and Dodds Express Co., in 1883, president of the National Railway Publications Co. He was an organizer of the Bell Telephone Co. of New York City and a director, as of many other enterprises.

William H. Woolverton's mother, Anne Gemmill Stewart, when widowed by her husband's death in 1843 at the prime of life, returned to her family home in Alexandria. Although his school career was brief, William acquired a liberal education by industrious reading. In appreciation of this he joined his cousin, William Thompson, in endowing the Alexandria Memorial Library.

John Gemmill Stewart, Jr. was born at Alexandria, Pa. July 24, 1842. He attended the local schools and after graduating under Prof. Henry McKibben on "Science Hill" went to Greensburg, Pa., where in one year with John M. Laird's "Pennsylvania Argus" he practically learned the printing business. August 1862 he enlisted and took part in the Battle of Antietam and other engagements. After being mustered out, he returned to the "Argus" to finish his trade, spending several years on the daily papers of Pittsburgh, Philadelphia and New York.

Subsequently he was with an engineer corps in building the West Penn R. R. from Allegheny City to Blairsville Intersection.

In 1868 he wandered to Boston, where for a time he dealt in all kinds of nursery stock as an agent of the Geneva and Rochester (N.Y.) nurseries. About then he joined the great Gilmore chorus of 20,000 voices and 1,000 musicians for the Grand Peace Jubilees. He published books and directories in Boston and Utica shortly before his marriage.

In 1889 his wanderlust led him into a show, Bristue's School of Educated Horses. John's part was training and exhibiting them on the stage in opera houses throughout the country. Thus he traveled to many parts of the United States and Canada, crossed the ocean to the old world, exhibiting in India, Ceylon, Java, Borneo, Sumatra, the Phillipines, Japan and China, and many other countries. In 1899 when the Boxer war broke out in China, he was compelled to flee and lost all his animals and show apparatus.

Returning to Boston, he was soon back in his previous business. Nevertheless, in July 29, 1903, he wrote, "I have two fine, high-class moving picture shows on the road and am away most of the time."

John was 5 ft. 5 inches, weighed 215 pounds and had a wiry strength.

He had married Louisa A. Merriman in Stoughton, Mass. July 4, 1876. They had two children; the elder, a daughter Lillie, the younger, a son who died in infancy. There does not seem to have been much time for family life—and one wonders whether they (the family) went along on all those trips.

It is a far cry from the lives of wealthy summer residents such as Thompson and Woolverton to the primitive existence of hunting and trapping led by "Trapper" Swoope. John P. Swoope, who may have been born and raised on the Swoope farm half-way between Alexandria and Barree, was an amazingly successful trapper. He was paid \$1167.75 premium for pelts taken during 1896—three-fourths that of the entire county. His score was 21 wildcats @ \$2 each, 792 foxes @ \$1 each, 1335 mink

@ 25c. In 1908 at the age of sixty-three he was still most successful but had trouble with boys stealing his traps, having tracked him through the snow. His favorite trapping ground was Warrior's Ridge. He is buried in the Alexandria cemetery.

Galloway the "medicine man" was another "character" and a Jack-of-all-trades. The making of sorghum at Stone Hall in the Valley was a most unusual business for the North. Many more oddities have been omitted.

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Historical Old Buildings



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OLDEST STONE HOUSE — ERECTED 1779

The Frazer House at the eastern end of the borough was built in 1779. The stone walls are two and a half feet thick on the first floor and one and a half feet thick on the second floor. Beneath the kitchen is a fortress-like cellar, without windows and with a heavy plank floor. This construction is supposed to have been for shelter from the Indians. This is probably the oldest house in Alexandria.

The Stitt cottage, built in 1812 in the style of the Scotch-Irish cottages which the early settlers knew, is probably the second oldest stone house. It stands at the back of the Mickey House across from the Presbyterian Church; Thomas Dorris was the stone-mason builder. In 1860 the main house, or two-story addition, was built across the end to front on Second Street. (See picture on page 45)

William Walker, house-carpenter, claimed that he used the oldest cabin in Alexandria

as the core of his house at the NW corner of Bridge and Main Streets.

The first brick house in Alexandria was that built by Thomas Harris Stewart about 1805, according to circumstantial evidence, from brick made and burned on the place. Originally heating and cooking were done in the fire-places. Water was carried up the hill from the unfailing spring nearby. A spring house close to it did duty as a refrigerator in those days. There was an orchard across the road and a fine view of the mountains in front before the town became built up. It was a happy house as the large family was always very hospitable, giving friends and relatives a happy time while the old grandfather's clock ticked upon the stair. "It was an old-fashioned home where God was honored with the morning and evening sacrifice of prayer and praise," and the Sabbath Day was truly kept. When financial troubles came, it was used as an inn, owned



Courtesy—Altoona Mirror

STITT COTTAGE — ERECTED 1812

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for a while by William Robert Lytle. Standing beside the upper lock of the canal, it became known as the "Old Block House." Later William H. Woolverton, grandson of Thomas Harris Stewart, bought the old house. It is now the Baker house.

In the days of the canal and of the use as an inn, James Buchanan is supposed to have breakfasted in the Old Lock House. Since it stood only half a block below the locks, many people left the packets for a brief change and to eat and drink just as people today break a journey by automobile. Mrs. Harnish often traveled to Pittsburgh by canal.

The lovely old brick house on Main Street, built by Conrad Bucher was said by him to be "the best built house in the town."

"The Old Fort" on Main Street was so called, old Mrs. Harnish said, because people were as crowded in there as they had been in a fort in Indian days. During "Uncle Phil Piper's" years as driver of the stage to the Main Line of the Pennsy at Petersburg, this was a typical country store.

Someday the old Porter house will probably bear a brass plate in memory of Thomas Conrad Porter, the famous botanist whose name is Latinized to make part of the botanical name of so many local wild flowers, shrubs and trees, who was born and raised there.

The old Scott house, home of the famous father and son of the name of John Scott, was long ago torn down but lives again in Miss Sue Phillips' painting. The same is true of the attractive Walker house with two giant sycamores in front which stood just west of the present hotel. Many other old bulidings are yet standing and in use; for example the very old inn of log construction, now covered with siding, which stands across from the school with its back to the street. It was owned by the Piper family for 113 years, in 1846 James Dougherty's name appears on the deed and before him, in 1829, the names of James and Eliza Trimble.

The old Cresswell house was probably built by Nicholas Cresswell, whose son John is mentioned elsewhere. It is of brick with excellent proportions and a lovely doorway.



Stone Hall and Its Builder

One of the fine old manor houses is Stone Hall, the homestead of the Huyett family in Hartslog Valley a few miles south of Alexandria. Completed in 1812 of "hammer-dressed" stone, conscientiously cut and laid, its flat-arched windows and doorways give evidence

of the early days of the Republic when stone houses, at first a rarity, began to replace the log cabins of the pioneers. Rectangular like the typical colonial Pennsylvania farm house the two-storied house contains eleven rooms and has three chimneys, large enough for Santa Claus and his pack, incorporated in the walls to emerge above the roof.

The builder. John Huyett, Sr., known as Major Huyett, was mechanic, architect and public-spirited citizen. In the late summer of 1812 he moved with his family from the log-house, which they had occupied for over a dozen years, near a never-failing spring, to the new house of limestone quarried on the place. He is supposed not only to have designed the house but to have made the hardware: hinges on the shutters and doors, the nails, the latches and even the locks.

The well-proportioned windows and central doorway, the paneling of the doors, the use of masonry, the details such as the small, square gable windows, the gallery and side porch reflect the builder's Maryland origin. The house faces south with a wide outlook over garden and fields to distant Warrior's Ridge. The soft-gray walls blend with trees and shrubbery; the low-pitched roofs blend with the rolling hills of the Valley.

Many of the original window panes, tinted by weather, lend character to the well-preserved house, as does the quaint bull's eye glass in the transom over the front doorway. It is practically unchanged since its building. Within the homestead the deep-set windows indicate the almost 24 inch thickness of the outer walls. Seven of the spacious rooms have large fire-places and chimney-pieces. A wide central hall leads to a separate wing, once an oldtime farm kitchen and winter living room. The walk-in fireplace has a cavernous opening supported by a massive oak log, faced by a simple mantle. Today this is partitioned into kitchen and dining room.

In the main part of the house on either side of the center hall are two rooms, the parlor being the largest of the four. From the hall a broad staircase, with graceful, slender balustrade and low, easy treads, is well lighted by a deepset window on the landing. From the narrow corridor of the second story open two spacious bedrooms at the front of the house and two at the rear. Thus during the cold days of winter the rooms were comfortably heated by the blazing logs in the fireplaces.



Major Huyett, born 9-11-1772, son of Louis and Margaretta (Potter) Huyett of "Huyett Meadows" near Hagerstown, Maryland, and

grandson of Charles Carl Huyett, French Huguenot who emigrated to America in 1738, from the Protestant colony at Zweibrucken in the Palatinate, and settled in Washington County, Maryland, in 1795 left his father's plantation and came to Huntingdon County to take possession of lands deeded to his father in 1790 by Benjamin Chew—from the original holdings of Richard and Thomas Penn. On 9-11-1797 he was married to Elizabeth Grove from Lancaster by Rev. John Johnston, the well-known Presbyterian clergyman.

John Huyett served as county commissioner in 1807, as county treasurer in 1812, and was one of the original officers of the now Alexandria Reformed church. In 1829 he with son-in-law John K. Neff founded the firm of Huyett & Neff to buy the Ake's mill property in Williamsburg near the large spring.

The log house in which Major Huyett and Elizabeth G. Huyett went to housekeeping in 1797 was moved from its original place near the kitchen wing of Stone Hall to its present site, in 1890.

Veterans

Veterans From Alexandria

The American Revolution—The Continental Congress, June 14, 1775, authorized the raising of six companies of expert riflemen in Pennsylvania, two in Maryland and two in Virginia to join the army under General Washington near Boston. Bedford County, of which Huntingdon was then a part, raised one company, numbering about ninety officers and men, under the command of Captain Robert Clug-

gage. Some names in that company associated with the area of the Hart's Log Settlement are Adam Anderson, Andrew Johnston and William Laird.

Thacher in his "Military Journal of the Revolution," dated August 1775, describes these Pennsylvania riflemen as "remarkably stout and hardy men, many of them exceeding six feet in height. They are dressed in white frocks or rifle-shirts and round hats. These men are

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remarkable for the accuracy of their aim, striking a mark with great certainty at two hundred yards distance."

Other Revolutionary soldiers who dwelled in Hart's Log Valley along the banks of the Juniata are as follows:

Aurandt, John Deitrick, enlisted in Northumberland County, Buffalo Township, Captain George Whitzel's company under Colonel Stewart, January 14, 1778. This soldier, who became the well-known minister of the Reformed groups throughout the area, is buried at Shafersville.

Col. John Cannon, Major John Spenser and many other who have been mentioned elsewhere served from Hartslog Settlement.

John Dean enlisted at Barree as a private in Captain William Simonton's Bedford County Militia and engaged in scouting parties along the frontier against the Indians. He was born in 1762 and lived in Huntingdon County in 1833.

Edward Ricketts enlisted March 1776 in Captain John Little's Company, Bedford County Militia. "He was kept on the frontier as Commander of spies constantly and only came home occasionally to get bread and salt and immediately returned; four or five years he continued on the back of Tussey Mountain as a guard to the inhabitants."

The story of Michael Cryder, deputy commissary for the Continental Army, has been told among those of other "early settlers." He helped greatly in the cause of American independence. Between Alexandria and Petersburg lies Cryder's Hill which perpetuates the family name. A few hundred yards from the road, on the present States farm is the burial ground of a number of this clan. The mill site subsequently came into the possession of the Whitaker family.

War of 1812—During the War of 1812 Alexandria was a place of rendezvous for the state militia called from this section of Huntingdon County. William Morris from Huntingdon was captain of the First Company of the Thirty-third Regiment. James Simpson was captain of the Second Company in this regiment. These commands were marched to Alexandria and after an interval proceeded northward on their way to Lake Erie, where Commodore Perry was requisitioning his squadron.

On Monday, Sept. 7, 1812, the "Huntingdon Light Infantry," a volunteer company, officered by Robert Allison, Captain, and Jacob Miller, First Lieutenant, marched from Huntingdon to Petersburg, then through Spruce Creek Valley to Bellefonte and on to the New York border, reaching Buffalo on the second of October.

At Alexandria on June 9, 1812 a light infantry company calling themselves "The Juniata Volunteers" was organized under the captaincy of Moses Canan and attached to the One Hundred and Nineteenth Regiment. They offered their services to the Governor of the Commonwealth, who had called for volunteers. Sometime later Issac Vandevander, captain of a rifle company at McConnellstown, and Jacob Vanderbuilt, also in command of a rifle company, tendered the services of their respective companies to Governor Snyder. These companies left Alexandria en route to Meadville and the Pennsylvania state line on Friday, September 11, 1812.

The Muster Roll of Captain Moses Canan's Company is given here in its entirety because many of the names are well known in the Hart's Log Community. They are starred. Captain, Moses Canan*; Lieut., John George Mytinger*; Ensign, William Stewart*; Sergeants, John Canan*, John Walker*, John Ranage, Samuel Ramsey; Corporals, James Cherry, Samuel Fisher, James McGuire*, Jeremiah Cunningham*.

Privates, William Adams, Jacob Ake*, Alexander Beans, Cornelius Burley, John Burley, David Caldwell*, Robert Caldwell*, Henry Canan, Alexander Carothers*, Hugh Carothers*, Samuel Coulter*, George Davis*, Jonathan Eckelberger, Jacob Harpster, Henry Knode*, John Lenney, Samuel Martin*, William Martin*, Arthur Moore, Joseph Mutzebaugh, John Newman, Eben Roberts, James T. Scott*, John Shell, James C. Simonton*, John Simonton*, Thomas Simonton*, Adam Slonaker, John White.

Serving in the War of 1812 was a distinguished citizen of Alexandria, John Scott, Sr., a Major of Volunteers. As told earlier, in 1828 he was elected to Congress from the district including Huntingdon, Mifflin, Center and Clearfield Counties.

(Muster List from Hoenstine; Floyd G.: ("Soldiers of Blair County.")

Mexican War—Congress on May 13, 1846 declared that a state of war existed between the Mexican Government and the United States. Troops were called for and the State of Pennsylvania was requisitioned for six regiments. In response to Governor Shunk's call for military action over ninety volunteer companies responded. Among them were:

No. 57—Warrior's Mark Fencibles: Captain James Bell; First Lieutenant, James Thompson; Second Lieutenant, James A. Gano.

No. 60—Williamsburg Blues: Captain, Thomas K. Fluke; First Lieutenant, James M. Kinkad; Second Lieutenant, Alexander McKenney.

On the 10th, 11th, and 12th days of December, 1846, eight of the companies from the eastern part of the state passed Huntingdon by canal and were entertained by the patriotic citizens of the borough during a brief stop on their journey. Undoubtedly when these soldiers of the Mexican War passed Alexandria by canal on their way west, the enthusiastic natives of this community extended to them the same hospitality as that shown by the Huntingdon people.

Civil War—The following list names some of the men who fought in the Civil War:

Henry N. Baker, Joseph M. Becker, Henry H. Bisbin, William Black, J. C. Brenneman, Michael Brenneman, D. P. Davis, Daniel M. Fetterholf, John P. Gemmill, Mark H. Harns, James T. Houseman, Joseph Huyette, Samuel L. Huyette, John R. Isenberg, William H. Isenberg, Harrison Itinger, Stephen Itinger, Robert M. S. (MD) Jackson, Albert A. Knode, Joshua A. Knode, David Lankard, Enoch I. Lefford, John R. Lefford, William McMahon, J. A. McPherran, S. I. McPherran, Samuel A. McPherran, William F. McPherran, Thomas B. Miller, Robert C. Morrow, Samuel Patterson, J. Easton Robb, Porter A. Robb, William W. Robb, Fredrick Shriver, George Shultz, Van Buren Shultz,

Geo. Sprankle, Jeremiah Sprankle, Daniel Spyker, John G. Stewart, T. Calvin Stewart, William S. Varner, Evander P. Walker, Robert D. Walker, Charles A. Whittaker, John T. Whittaker, Thomas S. Whittaker, (Capt.) George C. Wilson, James C. Wilson, Samuel H. Wilson, David Zentmyer, Frank Zentmyer.

The following were veterans from **The Spanish-American War**, Priv. A. Fifth Regiment:

John R. Brenneman, John C. Martin, Charles C. Porter, William C. Robb, John C. Schuldt, Stewart S. Varner, Clarence H. Whittaker, Ralph R. Whittaker, George Yocum.

Major Wesley Bickhart became a citizen of Alexandria in 1939 after his retirement from the Pennsylvania Industrial School where he had been appointed instructor in military tactics. He had served in the Spanish-American War and in the Boxer Rebellion in China. During the siege of Tiensin, the Major and his company were ordered to scale the wall surrounding the city and were among the first to enter the city. In this engagement the Major was shot through the chest and, lacking modern medical service, lay for two days in a marsh outside Tiensin. After varied public service he died in Alexandria in 1954.

“A Helping Hand”

“As I was crossing the river (the Franks-town Branch of the Juniata) upon the ice, I came to where the current had cut the ice very thin and in one or two places quite through. Into one of these I walked and was swept under the ice and bumped along until fortunately I came to another of the current-worn holes and got my head out of it. Thomas C. Porter, two years older than myself, was upon the ice; came to my relief and reached me his shinny stick and helped me out. I went

home in pitiable plight, shivering and anticipating a whipping. It was but a short distance from where I went in to our home and I got there as quickly as possible, escaped the whipping and soon was luxuriating before the fire in dry clothes.”

From the Memoirs of Alexandria’s most distinguished son and Huntingdon County’s “most prominent citizen”—the Hon. John Scott—showing how nearly he was lost to both!

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Education

Schools of the Alexandria Area

In the state of Pennsylvania before the enactment of the Public School Law of 1834, the existing elementary schools were either the parochial type under the control of the churches or were of a subscription nature where the parents paid for the instruction of their children. John Scott, the Senator, born in 1824, writes in his "Memoirs" of going as a small boy in Alexandria with older friends to the "old log school house near the gravel pit on the hill" (Later the McKibben Academy?) and of later attending "the brick Octagon School House on Gravel Hill" where he and William Graffius had excellent instruction. At this time the poor had to declare themselves paupers to obtain an education. The tuition was then paid by the county commissioners.

Under the able leadership of that transplanted New Englander, Thaddeus Stevens, supported by the representatives of the northern and western counties of the state, an act of the state legislature in Governor Wolf's administration made possible an elementary education for all children regardless of the financial condition of their parents.

However, it was not until well after the Civil War in the 1880's that the high schools were also assumed to be an object of public concern. In an earlier day academies and normal schools supplied this lack and taught a curriculum that is comparable to that of today's secondary schools.

In Huntingdon county a number of these outstanding academies were the Huntingdon Academy in that borough, established in 1816, with a continuous existence for almost seventy-five years; the Milnwood Academy, located at Shade Gap in 1849; the Cassville Seminary, dating from 1851; the Birmingham Seminary, incorporated in 1851, now the Grier School for Girls; and the well-known Alexandria Academy, which was for many years under the supervision of Professor McKibben, was founded a few years later. Young people from Alexandria and the neighboring area after completing their common school education frequently attended "McKibben's Academy," where they were well grounded in the classics—subjects characteristic of the education of that day. This building, one of the landmarks of the town today, is situated near the entrance of the Presbyterian Cemetery.

In the course of time Porter township established six free public schools. One of the

earliest of these was the "Valley School," situated in Hartslog Valley on the Huyett lands. After almost a century this building, where were taught the "three R's" to generations of pioneer stock and where met innumerable literary societies, was torn down and the ground returned to the original owners when the Alexandria-Porter school district was created. Nearby in the loop made by Tussey Mountain stood the second of these common schools, having been built on land belonging to the Hamer family. At Barree near the bridge at the entrance to the village was a third school building, still standing but converted into a residence. Along the banks of the Juniata below Alexandria was the "Aqueduct School," so called because of its location near the aqueduct which carried the canal across the river. A fifth school house on Warrior Ridge faced what was known as the old Alexandria-Huntingdon turnpike. This frame building has been converted into a dwelling and is now used as such. The sixth of the township schools, also now made into a residence, was situated a few rods from the northern boundary of Alexandria borough.

The names of those elected as school directors for Porter township in the first decade after the adoption of the free-school system are as follows: Isaac Martin, Daniel Houtz, George B. Young, Thomas Hanna, Henry Knode, John Huyett, George Wilson, Daniel Neff, Jacob G. Huyett, Lewis Knode, Robert Spear, Daniel Sprinkle, James Porter, Jacob Hanneman, George Woods, William D. Robb, M. Isenberg, Daniel S. Whittaker, Jacob Neff and George Hastings.

According to J. Simpson Africa's "History of Huntingdon and Blair Counties" by 1800 the township schools had 250 pupils.

In Alexandria the first board of borough school directors was organized in 1842 with the following members: Jacob Baker, William Moore, Samuel Huey, Robert Carmon and Samuel Spyker. The next year appear the names of William Moore, president of the board and Daniel Houtz, secretary.

In 1847 two school buildings were maintained in the village, one on the hill and the other in the lower part of the town. In 1870 the "fine new brick school building," which is now used as a hotel, was opened for classes. It had been designed and built by Jacob Baker in 1869-1870. In the building were four rooms: first floor left—grades one through three; first floor right—grades four through six; second

floor right—grades seven through nine; second floor left—grades ten through twelve. In these three schools fifty-eight male and fifty-one female pupils were instructed at a cost of 91c per month in comparison to 83c per pupil per month in Porter township.

In 1924 an extra room, which was used by the high school, was added to the 1870 Alexandria Borough building and another teacher joined the faculty. During the next year, because of increased enrollment, high school classes were held in the rooms above the drug store.

The Alexandria Borough Building was in use from 1870 to September 1927 when the present High School Building was opened. It held 12 grades including a three year high school and nine lower grades. There had been four teachers, one for each room. About 1915 the 7th and 8th grades were combined, making eight grades and three high school classes, called Juniors, Middlers and Seniors.

Following the able leadership of Dr. J. Frank Meyer and of John D. Meyers, who is still fondly remembered for his most excellent teaching at the turn of the century, Alexandria scholars were indeed fortunate to have for their principal and supervisor Edwin R. Keedy

—a man of superior intellectual attainment. Dr. Keedy was graduated from Franklin & Marshall College at the age of nineteen and was awarded membership in the honorary scholastic Phi Beta Kappa fraternity. After leaving Alexandria, he graduated from Harvard Law School in 1906 to become associate professor of law at Indiana University. In 1908 he was professor of law at Northwestern University and has been professor of Criminal Law at the University of Pennsylvania since 1915. For five years he was acting dean of the Law School.

The American Institute of Criminal Law and Criminology commissioned Dr. Keedy to England, Scotland, and later to France to investigate the administration of Criminal Law in these countries. Dr. Keedy has been President of the American Branch of the International Law Association.

When the Aqueduct School closed, Guy Neff's children and the three Phillippes were transported to Alexandria in the first "school bus," driven by Robert Tussey—later by Scott Coffman, Walter Coffman and others. In spring and fall the "bus" was a surrey pulled by two horses; in winter a sled was used.



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In September of 1927 the present building was opened and the old one closed. The last graduating class from the three years of high school work was given the privilege of continuing in the new four year work as seniors, thus graduating twice: the last high school graduates from the old building and the first from the new.

The faculty of nine teachers was under the supervision of Joseph H. Neff. In 1937 F. W. Cameron was Supervising Principal of Alexandria-Porter Schools. Ernest J. Knott was Alexandria High School Principal. At first "female teachers" had been violently opposed, later—by 1873—one third of the teachers were women.

On July first, 1947 grades 7-12 were joined with Petersburg, the District including Alexandria Borough, Porter Township, Petersburg Borough and Logan Township. On July 1, 1951 Barree Township was admitted to the District. On July 1, 1953 grades 1 through 12 from the five districts were united. Complete jointure became effective on July 1, 1954; Morris, West and Spruce Creek plus the other five made eight districts combined to form the Juniata Valley Joint Schools with thirty-three teachers under the supervision of W. Edgar Artman. There are five board members from each district, making a total of forty members in the Joint Board.

Public Service and Law

Lawyers and Politicians

Under the Constitution of the United States the first election by the people of Huntingdon County was held in 1788. At the time of this election no districts had been formed, but representatives were elected by the state at large. It was not until 1802 that the state was divided into Congressional districts. Huntingdon County was named in the fourth district with Dauphin, Cumberland and Mifflin.

The honor of being the first Congressman from this area came to a highly popular and greatly esteemed minister of the Presbyterian church, the Reverend David Bard. He was elected in that year and served until his death in 1815. Bard, who was a well-known figure in Alexandria, died at the home of his daughter, who was the wife of Dr. John Buchanan, one of the early physicians of the borough.

David Bard, a native of Leesburg, Virginia, became a member of the Carlisle Presbytery and preached in many of the churches in the Juniata Valley, including Hart's Log Church; in his last years he served as Pastor of the Arch Springs Presbyterian Church. He was one of the eleven original members of the Huntingdon Presbytery when it was organized in April 1795. His remains rest in the cemetery at Arch Springs, Sinking Valley.



Business Man and Congressman

John Scott, Sr. was born December 25, 1784, the son of David Scott and Sarah McCreary of Marsh Creek, Adams County, Pa. About 1793-4 the family moved to Huntingdon county near Manor Hill. Near here John Scott learned his trade as a shoemaker at the shop of John Hagan, probably in the closing years of the 18th or the early years of the 19th century.

When a young man, about 1805 he came to Alexandria carrying the tools of his trade. It was then customary to call on the farmers of the countryside for orders. Scott soon had a shop employing 15 to 20 men and added to it the tanning of leather, employing 4 or 5 men. The shoe-shop and tannery were on the bank of the Juniata east of the bridge, where the Phillips stable yet stands. In 1837-8 his son John began going with him on shoe-selling trips to various iron-works and stores. The business—a very large one for the times—continued until 1840-1.

October 16, 1806 John Scott married Sarah Davis, born Aug. 2, 1788, from Morris township. They went to housekeeping in Alexandria and had three children. After the death of his wife, the widower married Nancy (Agnes) Irvine, 15 years his junior, on October 29, 1821. Of the seven children the second, John Scott, Jr.—later Senator Scott,—and the fourth, George Scott—founder of Agnes Scott College in Decatur, Ga. in memory of his mother.

On his return from the War of 1812, where he was a major of volunteers, John Scott became active in Pennsylvania politics. He was elected to the House of Representatives in 1819 with David R. Porter as colleague and re-elected in 1820 with John Boyer. His wife died July 7 of that year. In 1828 he was elected to the 21st Congress, representing Huntingdon, Centre, Mifflin and Clearfield counties. A visit home in 1830-1, when his son John was sick with measles in the only papered room of the house, shows them living in the Blue Corner—recently moved into where is now the store and dwelling of David Phillips.

In 1842 his health began to fail and in 1850 he died after an unusually full life as family man, business man, soldier and legislator.

John Scott, the Senator, was born July 14, 1824 in Alexandria. As a small boy he visited several times with older friends the old log school house near the gravel pit on the hill while Master Spencer was the teacher. He attended the brick Octagon School House on Gravel Hill where he was most influenced by an excellent teacher, Thomas A. Maguire. Scott and Wm. Graffius continued the Latin begun under Maguire and added Greek with his successor Henry J. Van Dyke—whom he met again later in life when both were members of the Board at Princeton.

Sunday School in the old White Church on the hill, sermons by Mr. Thompson, days on his father's farm south of Alexandria, learning from his father—at 14—single-entry book-keeping so as to keep the books as well as join in some of the work of the store and tannery, traveling through the countryside settling accounts—all contributed to the knowledge of people that was so helpful later.

In 1842 John Scott went to Chambersburg to study law. His first speech had been made a year earlier at the meeting in Alexandria of the new temperance society of which he was secretary. The law studies were interrupted in 1843 by the need to settle the estate of his

half-brother, Dr. O. G. Scott of Birmingham. Returning to Chambersburg, he resumed his law studies under Judge Thomson. In 1844 he made a political speech from a store-box during a political campaign animated by the questions on slavery and on the annexation of Texas. In January 1846 he was examined and admitted to the bar. After a brief stay in Alexandria he looked up lodgings and an office in Huntingdon, the latter on Allegheny St. Later on he built a home where Swigart Associates, Inc. is now located. It was not long before he was appointed deputy attorney-general and recognized as one of the ablest lawyers in central Pennsylvania.

On May 8, 1849 John Scott married Annie E. Eyster of Chambersburg. His health failing in 1853, he toured Europe with the elder William Dorris. In 1861 he was elected to the State Legislature without opposition. His political activities and able speeches made him a suitable successor to Sen. Buchalew. The State Legislature accordingly elected him and he took his seat on March 4, 1869, serving his full 6 year term with an outstandingly clean record. He was never the politician seeking political honors.

John Scott had been one of the incorporators

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of the Huntingdon and Broad Top Mt. Railroad and Coal Co. under the act of May 6, 1852. In 1868 he was the speaker at Huntingdon's Memorial Day celebration when the "ceremony of decorating with flowers the graves of our patriot dead" was inaugurated.

After serving as senator, John Scott moved to Philadelphia but retained his home and other interests which frequently brought him back to Huntingdon. He became solicitor general for the Pennsylvania Railroad Co. The Hon. John Scott, "probably the most prominent citizen of Huntingdon County," died on November 29, 1896 in Philadelphia and is buried there in Woodland Cemetery.



Other Distinguished Citizens

Daniel J. Neff, born January 3, 1831, son of Daniel K. Neff of Alexandria and Mary M. Huyett Neff—daughter of Major Huyett of Stone Hall, was admitted to the Blair County bar in 1856. Having become a lawyer of distinction, he was one of the founders of the Blair County Bar Association and Dean of the Bar for many years.

Henry J. McAteer was born in Logan township on January 4, 1838. He lived on the farm and attended local schools and the Mooresville Academy until he was twenty years old. In 1859 he was a passenger brakeman on the Pennsylvania Railroad, advanced in due course to the position of conductor. This he retained until 1869 when he was elected to the legislature, served one term and was re-elected to succeed himself. Engaging in coal operations in Clearfield County, he was connected with that and farming thereafter. He resided in Alexandria where he owned two farms of 218 and 165 acres respectively. In 1884 he was elected to the Pennsylvania Senate for four years, serving on committees of appropriations, banks and education. He frequently represented his district at national and state conventions. From 1893-1897 he was deputy sur-

vveyor of the Port of Philadelphia. On October 26, 1865 he had married Clara P. Houtz, daughter of Dr. Daniel and Susan Bucher Houtz. They had three children. Mr. McAteer was popular with old and young and could tell many amusing stories of his railroad adventures during the Civil War.

Jacob Steinman Stewart, born March 3, 1849, son of John G. and Elizabeth Stewart, attended school in his birthplace, Alexandria, until he was sixteen, except for 18 months (1862-3) when he clerked in the store of his cousin Wm. H. Brewster at Shirleysburg. He attended the Academy at Pine Grove Mills for one year, taught school in Warrior's Mark township a year, spent a summer term at P.G.M. Academy, taught again in Clearfield County and entered Lafayette May 6, 1868 and left after completing the Sophomore year in 1871 because of ill health and lack of means. He taught languages for a year in the Normal Institute Carversville, Bucks County—September 1869-June 1870. On October 25, 1871 he married Miss Mary Lander of Phillipsburg, N. J. and registered as a law student with M. Hale Jones, Esq. That winter he also taught school at Warrior's Mark. The following spring he re-entered the law office for a stay of ten years. He practiced in Pennsylvania and for many years in Phillipsburg, N. J. In the spring of 1893 he joined the firm of Silver, Burdett and Co. publishers, Boston, Mass.

Lewis M. Hagarty, born 1861, lived in Water Street, but was active in the Alexandria community. He ran a hardware store where Cloyd Grove's is now, was treasurer of the Presbyterian Church and out-of-town trustee of the Alexandria Memorial Library. He married twice—Miss Karlson and Miss Anna Henry. He was a State Representative.

Another "native son" who became a State Representative is Joseph Huyett Neff, born February 16, 1884, son of William Neff and Margaret Howard Neff. He has been active in Grange work and served as superintendent of Huntingdon County Schools.

Science and Medicine

Doctors Practicing in Alexandria

Dr. John A. Buchanan was probably the first permanent doctor in Alexandria. He practiced from the beginning of the village until his death in the fall of 1824. Dr. William Jackson also came before 1800, practicing until his death about 1816. After this date Dr. Joseph Harris practiced until he moved to Philadelphia about 1825. Dr. James Trimble, a son-in-

law of John Gemmill, established his practice about 1825. Shortly after he sponsored the "Trimble Addition" in 1847, he moved to Huntingdon. Dr. James A. Charlton came to Alexandria about 1825 and practiced here until his death about 1836.

Dr. Daniel Houtz came to Alexandria in 1826 to study medicine with Dr. Charlton. After graduating from Jefferson Medical Col-

lege and practicing for a year in Williamsburg, Dr. Houtz located permanently in Alexandria and built up a large practice. His investment in a sawmill on Clearfield Creek in 1850 required a personal supervision that led him into undertaking other lumber interests. He "sumounted difficulties that most men would have sunk under and lived to see his most sanguine hopes realized." The 1870 census reported him to be worth \$900,000. He died at his home in Alexandria on February 14, 1876.

Dr. Jacob M. Gemmill, a contemporary of Dr. Houtz, practiced in Alexandria for a short while before moving to Altoona. He and his wife are buried in Alexandria. Dr. John McCulloch became about this time a doctor in Petersburg with many Alexandria patients. Dr. Jonathan Dorsey was the next physician, succeeded by Dr. Charles Coryell, whose wife wrote to friend that Alexandria was such a delightful town in which to live. Dr. Thomas Campbell, Dr. John Galbraith, and Dr. John Irvin also practiced during the second quarter of the century.

Dr. George W. Huwitt was born in Alexandria January 19, 1828. When he was five years old, his family moved away and he did not return until when about 20 he taught school for three years in Hartslog Valley. In

the spring of 1850 he commenced the study of medicine with Dr. R. M. Bebee at Hartford, Ohio. In the spring of 1853 he commenced his practice in Alexandria. Taking an active interest in politics, he was the county coroner in 1876. Born with a strong constitution, remarkably well preserved, the doctor enjoyed excellent health during his long period of practice and responded to all calls of the sick. His affable manner and cheery presence in the sick room were proverbial. In all his relationships—as husband, father, neighbor—he enjoyed the esteem and confidence of all.

Dr. Tobias Harnish was born in Morris township March 6, 1826. He graduated from Marshall College in 1849 and from Jefferson Medical in 1856. After practicing for six years in Water Street, he moved to Alexandria, where he "followed the healing art." He was a brilliant man, well versed in literature as well as in science.

Dr. Charles Harnish, son of Tobias Harnish, was the only physician in the town during his years of practice. Owning four horses, he would return from Shavers Creek Valley, Williamsburg, Spruce Creek Valley, etc. change horses and start again on his rounds. He died in his thirties having given his life in service to the community.

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Dr. Frank Paul Grove, born in Hesston in 1877, took over Dr. Harnish's practice and office, where the Rev. Charles Hewitt now lives. He was of great help to Dr. Beck when the latter started practice.

Dr. John Beck, born in Warrior's Mark, kindly and faithful to his profession, gave his life to Alexandria, where he practiced for fifty years.

Dr. Harry Grove, brother of Dr. Frank Grove, attended Alexandria public schools through high school. In 1902 he graduated from the Pennsylvania College of Pharmacy and Science. On June 1, 1952 he received a certificate from that college for having owned and operated his Alexandria drug store for fifty years. He was a member of the Reformed Church, a trustee of the Alexandria Memorial Library, a member of the Borough Council from 1908 and its president from 1910 to his death on February 18, 1953.

Dr. McCauley, a Petersburg physician who was especially skillful in treating the diseases of children, was retained by many people of Alexandria.

Dr. Ed Loudon, now of Altoona, practiced for several years in the early 1900's.

He was succeeded by Dr. J. P. Brallier, who enjoyed less than ten years of practice before his tragic death in an automobile accident. He had started a local Boy Scout troop shortly before.

Dr. James Roy St. Clair located in Alexandria on October 29, 1914, taking over the office and equipment of Dr. Brallier. From February 1918 to August 1919 Dr. St. Clair used his skill for the wounded of the armed forces. He is now living in Florida.

Dr. Harry Hull Nagley practiced in Alexandria from September 1935 to some time in 1948, when he went to Huntingdon.

In October or November of 1948 Dr. H. William Stewart bought Dr. Nagley's house where he has practiced ever since.

Dr. Donald C. Malcolm from Indiana succeeded to the practice of Dr. St. Clair on his retirement.

"Jerry" Wilson was the most professional of the many excellent artists that Alexandria has produced. A number of these have been women, among them Jerry's sister Prudence Wilson.

Jeremiah Wilson was born in 1824 in Alexandria, the son of George Wilson, into a large family of both boys and girls. When still in his 'teens and clerking in the general store of Hatfield and Porter, he showed unusual talent in clever sketches of local "characters."

Although a qualified physician, he seems to have found local practice discouraging. However, he served as an army surgeon in the Civil War and was much lauded by a friend Dr. Fay for his fine work. P. L. Rothermel, a painter of note, encouraged Wilson's talent for portraiture, acting as his teacher for about ten years. Jerry lived in Harrisburg and painted from 1853 to 1856 when Rothermel and he left for Europe. In October of that year he writes and sketches along the Rhine. In 1857 he is studying in Rome and collecting flowers from the graves of Keats and Shelley. On his return Jerry Wilson studied at the Philadelphia Academy of Fine Arts from 1861 to 1863.

After the Civil War he helped Rothermel with the large mural of the Battle of Gettysburg in the Capitol at Harrisburg, reputedly painting many portraits of fellow Alexandrians as those of the soldiers in the great picture. In September of 1874 Rothermel writes him after a visit, regretting his having left too soon and commenting on the first rate notices in the York papers. Some of his life-like portraits are the pride of homes in Alexandria. Many were painted of and for people in Bellefonte or Bedford. He was a talented and skillful artist.

About this time he must have married another Alexandrian Fannie Baker, with whose family he lived on Second Street, where her father, Michael Baker, lived to be a 100 years old. Always pleasant and a polished gentleman Jerry was well loved by many friends. He died in 1899.

Through the years a large number of "native sons" have become doctors who practiced elsewhere. One of these was John Jacob Bucher, son of Conrad Bucher, who in 1844-1845 married the eldest daughter of Rev. James Thompson, but died tragically young. William Graffius, son of Israel Graffius, was lost on the ill-fated "Central America." Oliver G. Scott, son of John Scott by his first wife, practiced in Birmingham for some years but died in the spring of 1843. His young half-brother, later Senator John Scott, tells of settling the estate, when Dr. Scott died, in the spring of 1843.

Dr. William Swope, who was born and raised half-way between Barree and Alexandria, married Hannah Bucher. Dr. J. T. Wilson, son of George Wilson and brother of Jerry Wilson, practiced in Tyrone where his "Cloverine" salve is still sold by the Wilson Chemical Company. Dr. Zachariah Gemmill Stewart, seventh child of Eliza G. and Thomas H. Stewart was born in Alexandria Dec. 12, 1805. After studying under Dr. James Trimble in Huntingdon and practicing in Petersburg for a few months, he practiced in Murrysville for thirty years.

In 1859 he went to Canonsburg, where he died in 1863 of typhoid contracted on the Gettysburg battlefield.

Dr. Robert Montgomery Smith Jackson, born in Alexandria on April 20, 1815, also took an active part in the Civil War and died in Tennessee on January 18, 1865 as a result. He is buried in Alexandria.

Dr. John Gregory was born in a plaster and frame house on the canal in Alexandria and practiced in Western Pennsylvania. Dr. Robert August Stewart, born in Alexandria September 23, 1851 practiced in Easton. Dr. Lewis Knode Neff, born in Alexandria in 1862, son of Mary Jane Knode and David Neff, practiced in New York. Dr. George E. Knode was born in Alexandria October 9, 1864, son of Daniel Knode. On June fifth, 1895 he married Elizabeth Howard, daughter of Peter and Mary Wolfe Howard, and practiced in Athens County, Ohio. He died on July 18, 1901.

Dr. Hewitt Myers attended the local schools as did his younger brother, Dr. Edward Myers. Dr. Hewitt practiced in Steelton where his brother became a dentist. Dr. Ira Mierley attended Jefferson College of Medicine together with his good friend Warren Reid, who lived out in the Loop with his grandparents, the

Allens. During the first year at Jefferson Mierley discovered that he had incipient tuberculosis and transferred immediately to the University of Colorado, as did his friend Warren Reid. Both practiced in the West for years. Another young man from the Loop who "went West" was Dr. Guy Black, a dentist.

Dr. Elmer E. Neff died in Altoona in April of 1954 at the age of 92. Having studied medicine at the University of Pennsylvania, he practiced in Altoona for over fifty years and was instrumental in starting Mercy Hospital there. He was chief surgeon until the hospital was taken over by the Catholics. Dr. Elmer Neff's nephew, Dr. Walter Scott Neff, was born at Blue Spring Farm in Neffsdale. After attending Juniata College and Jefferson Medical he settled in Virginia City, Minnesota where he and three other doctors have their own clinic.

Dr. Ralph R. Whittaker was born November 25, 1878 in Porter Township. After attending Juniata College and Mercersburg Academy he studied at the Medical College of the University of Pennsylvania, graduating in the class of 1907. He enlisted and served as a private in the Spanish-American War. In World War I he became a captain. He had begun a practice

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in Williamsburg in 1908 and become an active member of the Lions and the Masons.

Dr. Walter Phillips, after attending the usual local schools, graduated from Princeton University in 1902 as one of two men from his class to be given a fellowship for advanced study. After graduating from the College Physicians and Surgeons at Columbia University, Dr. Phillips went to Englewood, N. J. as assistant to Dr. Curry, who at his death left young Phillips in charge of the practice. In 1914 he married Helen Rennie. Englewood Hospital Association centers on his skill and generosity, for he is notable for personal sacrifices for his patients and for charity to widows, children and needy families. "He came from the farm in the hills of Pennsylvania and carries with him today marks of the discipline, freedom and rugged independence characteristic of farm life."

Dr. Anna Varner was born in Alexandria on November 4, 1869. Her training was received from Cleveland Medical School and from an internship in the Philadelphia Hospital. She practiced in Wilksburg, a suburb of Pittsburgh. A member of the American Institute of Homeopathy, Dr. Varner served as Second Vice-president. She was chairman of the hospital board of Shady Side Hospital in Pittsburgh. She specialized in diseases of women and children until her death June 6, 1916.

Thomas Conrad Porter, distinguished both as a botanist and as a minister, was born in Alexandria January 22, 1822, the eldest son of John and Maria Bucher Porter. Grandfather Thomas Porter had come from Ireland to settle first in Spruce Creek then move to Alexandria before 1800, living near the "public square." He died in 1803. His son John Porter, 1797-1881, was Thomas's father. Thomas's mother was a great-granddaughter of the Rev. John Conrad Bucher, who, born in Neunkirch, Switzerland, was a notable Revolutionary chaplain.

In 1822 John Porter was building the handsome brick house on Main Street which housed the family until recently. Mrs. Sallie Porter Moore died there. As a small child she had been taken along by her uncle Thomas on his botanizing trips when he was home on a visit. Her interest in plants and flowers echoed his.

Thomas Porter's early years were spent in Alexandria. He was fond of study and reading but was not a bookworm. At twelve he was sent to the Harrisburg Academy and at fourteen he entered Lafayette College, from which he graduated in 1840. For the next three years he studied at Princeton Theological Seminary, graduating in 1843.

The following year was spent at his father's home in Alexandria, during which time he read much and began the life-long study of botany. He was ordained by the German Reformed Classis at Lebanon, Pa., November 14, 1848 and became pastor of the Second German Church in Reading, Pa.

In 1849 he began the teaching of chemistry, zoology and botany at Marshall College—later combined with Franklin College as Franklin and Marshall College, Lancaster, Pa. In 1866 he was called to the chair of botany, zoology and geology at Lafayette College, where in 1897 he became professor emeritus and curator of the museum.

In 1850 he married Susan Kunkel of Harrisburg.

From 1877 to 1884 he was pastor of a church in Easton, Pa.

He was a member of the Torrey Botanical Club of New York, of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, and of the American Philosophical Society. At the time of his death he was president of the Pennsylvania German Society. He had an unusual fund of information and a genial wit; he was sometimes testy and impatient but never dull.

In 1840 he began a collection of plants from the neighborhood of Alexandria, from Georgia, the Rocky Mts., Wyoming and Colorado. His herbarium became famous for the completeness of its Pennsylvania species. It is now in the possession of Lafayette College. Gray credits Porter with the initial discovery of many of these plants by using his name in the terminology, as in Sloe or Alleghany Plum—*Prunocerasus Alleghaniensis* Porter.

He was the author or translator of numerous books both scientific and religious. His botanical books are often listed as sources.

Thomas Conrad Porter died in Easton, Pa. in 1901.

Thomas G. Estep, son of Thomas Gemmill and Louisa Baker Estep was born in Alexandria on June 22, 1883. He attended the local schools, graduating from Alexandria High School in 1900 or 1901. In 1901 he entered Pennsylvania State College (now University), from which he graduated in 1905 with a bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering.

On January 5, 1909 he married Kathrynne Beaver of Scottsdale, Pa.

He served with Westinghouse, H. C. Frick Company, Babcock & Wilcox Co., and Armstrong Cork Co. before in 1913 joining the staff of Carnegie Tech in Pittsburgh, which he served with distinction until his retirement

in 1949. He contributed generously to the steady progress which marked the transition of the Carnegie Technical Schools to the Carnegie Institute of Technology. He was on the faculty for 36 years. From 1943 to 1947 he served as acting Head of the Mechanical Engineering Department while being Professor of Mechanical Engineering.

Extremely active in his field, Mr. Estep was appointed a Fellow of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, the highest membership rank in the society, granted in recognition of outstanding achievement in the field of Mechanical Engineering. His research led to his

publishing numerous papers and books, such as "Problems in Thermodynamics and Heat Power Engineering" and the "Mechanical Engineering Laboratory Manual."

After living in Pittsburgh for 25 years, on his retirement July 19, 1949 Mr. Estep moved to his summer home in Alexandria, the Estep homestead bought as a summer home in 1921 after his father's death. Here he planned to pursue his hobby of cabinet-making. He died of a heart attack in his home August 7, 1949 and is survived by his wife, one daughter—Mrs. Anna L. Stewart,—and one grandson, Jack Gemmill Stewart.

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Churches

Presbyterian

The Hartslog Presbyterian Church, now the Alexandria Presbyterian Church, according to the old record, "is the oldest church in the upper Juniata Valley west of Jack's Narrows." The early records begin with a subscription list for the erection of a house of worship in 1786 including the names of 58 subscribers, heads of families. This Log Worship House stood upon the hill one mile north of Alexandria, where a stone marker in the old cemetery marks the location of this primitive log building not more than 40 feet square with split log benches for the worshiper, without a floor or heating facilities, erected October 6, 1787. It was unceiled, the rafters bare under the roof except where swallows built their nests, and regardless of the worshipers below flew in and out of some friendly cracks. The walls, clinked and daubed, weathered so that "through the cracks of the house serpents were known to enter to the alarm of the matrons." This condition was gradually improved. In 1794-5 it was divided into four sections and fitted with pews, a stove was "fixed" and in 1802 a contract was awarded for a gallery with an outside stairway, but this was never entirely completed.

The growing importance of Alexandria as a village made it advisable to secure a lot there for church and cemetery. The deed for a lot on Gravel Hill is dated Nov. 17, 1813 from Elizabeth Gemmill. The stone meeting house erected at a cost of \$1000 was never completed as the stone used in the walls could not endure the action of the weather. It was abandoned and the congregation returned to the log church until 1826, when they used a brick house near the site of the present Reformed Church parsonage.

In 1814 because of the "traitorous" opinions of the Rev. John Johnston, expressed in an anti-war sermon near the close of the War of 1812, the congregation split and the dissatisfied people became the Alexandria Presbyterian Church, after a good bit of trouble to be recognized. They met in the stone shop owned by George Wilson. In 1819 they called the Rev. James Thompson and soon thereafter secured a lot for cemetery and church purposes and erected a frame building called the "White Meeting House" in the old part of the present

cemetery about 1820. Ten years later the Hartslog Congregation joined the Alexandria group in the White Meeting House. Here the congregation worshiped until the present brick church was built, on ground obtained from Lewis Mytinger, in February 1851 at a cost of over \$6,000. In 1906 this building was renovated and altered by William Thompson in memory of his father. Mr. William Woolverton installed the pews. A new pipe organ was built, partly from a gift left by William McKibben, who taught in his Academy on Science Hill for thirty years.

In May 1841 the church elected its first deacons and laid the foundation of its interest in the welfare of the needy by development of its two poor funds, now administered by the Trustees of the church: the one, the William Thompson Trust; the other, the Dr. Daniel Houtz Trust.

The Alexandria Church took an active interest in missionary work, for which, in the Presbytery, it rates oldest in the state and second in the United States. Under the Rev. James Thompson a missionary society was formed in 1823—the Female Missionary Society, listing some men among its contributors. The church also supported the Western Foreign Missionary Society established in 1802. The Hartslog Missionary Society was organized in 1886, the John Porter Memorial Mission Band about 1882, the Juniata Missionary Society in 1888. These two are now merged in the William E. Stewart Missionary Society.

The Church also owns the Manse, completed in 1900, erected on Main Street largely through the interest of Mrs. Clara Houtz McAteer.



Ministers of the Alexandria Presbyterian and Hartslog Church

Rev. John Johnston, 1787-1823; Rev. James Thompson, 1819-1830; Rev. John Peebles, 1825-1830; Rev. Samuel Wilson, 1832-1838; Rev. John McKinney, 1838-1848; Rev. George Elliot, 1849-1858; Rev. D. A. Happer, (Supply); Rev. T. L. Lowrie, 1858-1864; Rev. S. M. Moore, 1864-1870; Rev. J. C. Barr, 1871-1885; Rev. A. H. Jolly, 1886-1893; Rev. Wm. E. Stewart, 1893-1930; Rev. Harold T. Smith, 1930-1938; Rev. Austin Hunter, 1938-1944; Rev. H. L. Geissinger, 1944-1948; Rev. K. L. Duncan, 1948-present.

Space For The Above "History" Donated By

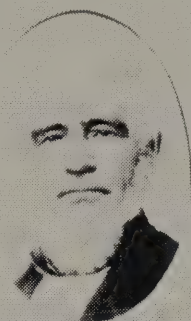
THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



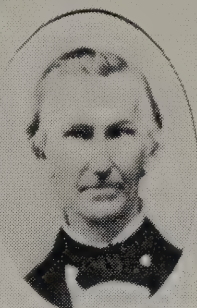
Rev. Harry Seissinger
1944-1945



Rev. James Thompson
1877-1930



Rev. Samuel Wilson
1832-1837



Rev. John McManis
1835-1845



Rev. Austin V. Hunter
1938-1944



Rev. George E. Elliott
1849-1855



Rev. Harold F. Smith
1930-1933



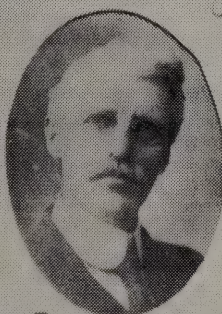
Rev. H. E. Stewart
1893-1930



Rev. Kenneth L. Duncan
1945-



Rev. Samuel F. Lewis
1808-1863



Rev. A. H. Folly
1816-1895



Rev. J. G. Carr
1871-1885



Rev. Samuel Moore
1863-1870

Reformed

About 1786 many groups of Germans made their way to Alexandria and the surrounding territory. They were usually of either Lutheran or Reformed affiliation. Missionaries of these faiths visited the community at Water Street as early as 1796 and conducted services in barns or homes. The settlers went to these services with the Bible under one arm and the rifle over the other shoulder.

The first regular Lutheran pastor was Rev. Frederick Haas, who preached at Water Street and about fourteen other places, usually in private homes. The first record of the Reformed faith dates from 1798 when John Dietrick Aurandt, a student for the ministry was doing missionary work in various places in Huntingdon, Blair, Cumberland and Union counties and preached in Water Street. In 1804 he purchased a farm at Yellow Springs and in 1809 was ordained and made regular pastor of Reformed groups at Water Street, etc., with a charge extending from Huntingdon county to Cumberland county—90 miles and from Frankstown to Cassville—30 miles.

In 1818 a tract of land was donated at Water Street for "a Lutheran and Reformed Church and Graveyard." A two-story building was erected, 32 x 36 feet, with a gallery on three sides at a cost of over \$2000. Here the two congregations worshiped in harmony until about 1850. On separating the Reformed faith centered in one pastor with three churches: Keller's, dissolved Oct. 24, 1926 but still holding one summer service a year; Sinking Valley, dissolved during the pastorate of Dr. C. W. Levan; and Christ Church of Alexandria.

When the German Reformed Congregation left their connection with the Union Church in Water Street, those living in or near Alexandria—the Harnish, Isenberg, Knode, Leford, Huyett, Neff, Sprankle, Waite, Fisher and other families—erected the present church building on a lot conveyed July 4, 1846 by John G. Stewart to Benjamin Neff and John Huyett in trust for the congregation.

Erected in 1849, this two-story brick building with a steeple and bell accommodated 500 worshipers. It was consecrated in 1851 as the Christ German Reformed Church. In 1869 the name became the Christ Reformed Church, the American church having lost all connection with the German. In June, 1934, the Reformed Church in the United States and The Evangelical Synod of North America were merged into the Evangelical and Reformed Church accordingly the name is now the Christ Evangelical and Reformed Church.

At the turn of the present century the Elders of the Spiritual Council served as a disciplinary body, denying the privilege of communion to members who had attended a dance—"engaged in the sinful amusement of dancing"—or been heard using profanity. If they failed to repent, they were suspended or excommunicated from the church.

The Christ Congregation has always had a keen interest in spreading the gospel to other parts of the world through the Board of Home and Foreign Missions.

List of Pastors of the Christ Evangelical and Reformed Church: John Dietrick Aurandt, 1798-1831; Jonathan Zeller, 1831-1839; Moses Kieffer, 1839-1843; Samuel H. Reid, 1843-1852; Frederick A. Rupley, 1852-1856; Joshua Riale, 1856-1858; John G. Wolf, 1859-1861; Josiah May, 1861-1862; John W. Love, 1862-1870; J. A. Peters, 1871-1878; M. H. Sangree, 1878-1884; Calvin Heilman, 1884-1893; Frederick A. Rupley, Jr., 1849-1891; Howard Obold, 1901-1910; Charles W. Levan, 1911-1922; Arthur W. Barley, 1922-1924; Moses A. Kieffer, 1926-1930; Oliver H. Sensenig, 1931-1935; Guy J. Moyer, 1935-1941; Oliver H. Sensenig, 1942-1945; Lee O. Worthing, 1945-1948; John E. Winter, 1948-1954; Rev. George Schultz, Jr., 1955.

Sons of the Congregation in the Ministry: Rev. Albert Black, Rev. Blanchard Black, Rev. Daniel Harnish, Rev. Lewis Harnish, Rev. Charles Huyette, Rev. Carl Isenberg, Rev. John Neff, Rev. John E. Winter.

Alexandria Methodist Church

The Methodists in Alexandria became organized in 1826. They first met in the home of John Kennedy to hold class meetings. The first group consisted of sixteen members. After much opposition the school-house was secured for worship. After a few years they were forced to leave the school-house and build a church.

In 1838 the first Methodist Church was erected at the cost of \$450. This church was a frame structure and stood on a side street. Through the work of Michael Baker the number of Methodists grew rapidly and a larger church was soon needed.

The trustees secured a plot of ground on Main Street and a two story brick church was built on the site of the present church at the cost of \$10,000. The building was dedicated January 31, 1892 under the pastorate of Rev. P. P. Strawinski.

On the morning of February 9, just nine days after the dedication service, the church burned to the ground.

The people being determined to have a church took the \$2500 Insurance and arranged for the balance needed to erect another church.

Within the same week work was started on the third church, which was finished and dedicated before the end of the year 1892.

Until 1864 Alexandria had been on the Huntingdon Circuit; at that time Alexandria and Petersburg were made a station. In 1894 the charge was divided and Barree was added to Alexandria as an appointment.

The last dollar of indebtedness was cancelled in 1901. The church continued to grow and was served by a different minister every two or three years until 1906 when Rev. W. Edward Watkins came. He served the charge for five years. He later became District Superintendent of the Sunbury District and then of the Harrisburg District.

Because of the increase in numbers there was need of more room for the Sunday School. In 1922 under the pastorate of Rev. J. Earl Bassler a large annex was added to the back of the church, making a large Sunday School room and kitchen facilities. It took much hard work to pay off the building debt. The Rev. Bassler served the church for seven years, that being the longest term served by any minister on this charge.

The next large job of repair work was done after the St. Patrick's Day Flood, March 17,



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1936 when the church floors were covered by water and mud. The floors were refinished and new carpet bought and the walls painted. Other small repairs were made through the years, leaving the church in debt most of the time.

In 1947 through the kindness of one of the members, Mrs. Bessie Rishel, the church was free of debt and a note-burning service was held at the church.

In 1952 a new furnace was installed. In 1953 a Hammond Organ and a Lectern were dedicated, during the pastorate of Rev. L. L. Owens, by the District Superintendent, Rev. Herbert Glassco.

Alexandria and Barree were joined with Petersburg to form a Parish in 1948, which is now being served by Rev. Robert Fleck.

Organizations

Alexandria Garden Club

On February 3, 1942, thirty-three eager gardeners of Alexandria and its environs decided that they needed a garden club, organized the club complete with constitution and by-laws, and chose as their first president Frank McKnight of the South Side. In these war years they worked for conservation and better victory gardens.

The club has increased its membership from the original thirty-three to well over a hundred, one third being men. These gardeners come from Huntingdon, from the Petersburg and Barree areas as well as from Alexandria borough and Porter Township. The interest in conservation and in better gardens has continued. To it has been added an interest in civic improvement.

The grounds of the Memorial Library have been planted according to a carefully made scheme, several memorial trees being added. The grounds are kept in good condition with the help of boys from the agricultural classes of the Juniata Valley Schools under their teacher, Albert Simkins.

In cooperation with the Borough Council the club each year planted shade trees where they are wanted by the property owners and needed to beautify the town, the older trees having begun to break badly in our heavy storms. Started from the center of the town near the bridge, trees will eventually be planted throughout the town. Already pin-oaks and maples have been planted on the school grounds just outside the borough line.

Working with the Pennsylvania Roadside Council, Inc. the garden club planted a triangle, where two roads enter Alexandria from Route 22, and the roadside extending east and west. This planting recently won the second prize for a "model mile."

The Junior Activities Committee chooses each year a high school girl—freshman or sophomore—and pays her expense for a two-

week conservation camp at State College, so that she may bring back to her classmates the conservation measures she has learned.

The Alexandria Garden Club is a member of the Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania, in the fifth central district, being one of five clubs in District V. The other are Mifflin County Garden Club, Milton Garden Club, the Neelyton club and the Schrub-Dub Garden Club of Bellefonte.



Alexandria Rod and Gun Club

The Alexandria Rod and Gun Club, popularly known as the Sportsmen's Club, was chartered on February 12, 1915 for the purpose of caring for and protecting game and fish and of promoting outdoor sports, to exist for a term of 99 years. All members were from Alexandria, and meetings were held in Alexandria, at various places. In the following list of charter members the directors are indicated by a star: *George B. Piper, *Edward E. Heller, Jr., *L. G. Knode, L. M. Hagerty, George Houseman, Isaac Chilcote, J. S. Martin, George W. Sprankle, W. G. Kanagy, H. L. Myers, David Flenner, Harry Knode, and *S. C. Reed.



The Parent-Teachers Association

When the schools of Petersburg and Alexandria were separate, the Parent-Teacher organizations were separate also. That of Alexandria was formed in 1928. In the fall of 1947 there was a jointure of both schools and the P. T. A.

This organization has been wholly responsible for the school cafeteria—hiring a cook and running it on a non-profit basis. Since the government has been helping with the school lunches, it has been possible to buy some necessary equipment. Before the jointure two hundred dollars worth of library books were bought for the school and the Alexandria Scouts were helped.

The Juniata Valley Band Mothers' Association

The "Band Mothers" was organized in February of 1948. The original president, Mrs. John Chenoweth, was from Alexandria; the vice-president, Mrs. Henry Cresswell, was from Petersburg. Accordingly, the two communities have always alternated in holding those offices. Mrs. Guy Thompson of Alexandria was the original secretary. Instead of a treasurer there were two Ways and Means committees, under Mrs. Roland Mickey of Alexandria and Mrs. Russell Hurley of Petersburg, working together and independently. Thirty mothers attended the organization meeting urged on by their children, whom Mr. Garman had told that organization of their mothers would mean a better band and a better ball team.

In May of 1948 they had on hand \$256. Mr. Garman heard of second-hand uniforms for sale in State College and managed to buy forty-two for the \$256. Then the mothers paid \$55 for cleaning and pressing the uniforms and additional money for plumes and tams.

In May of 1949, by holding bake-sales, by sponsoring faculty vs. school-board basketball games and a mile-of-pennies contest, by giving suppers to service clubs, staging an operetta,

and by receiving money from the American Legion, the Volunteer Fire Co., and the band itself, they had in the treasury almost \$3,000 instead of \$140, which a few months before in January of 1949 represented their assets. They bought good new uniforms—52 for \$2700,—paid \$350 for the Twirling Team's uniforms and acted as hostesses for the Annual Huntingdon County Band Festival.

Since then they have raised funds and bought band instruments, about fifty to date, which pupils rent, or buy on the installment plan. They sponsor the annual "Penn State Band Day" and give an annual banquet for band members and their parents in May.

The present officers are Mrs. Isabel Kline, president, of Alexandria; vice-president, Mrs. E. M. Huling of Petersburg; secretary, Mrs. Roland Mickey of Alexandria; treasurer, Mrs. Beatrice Payne of Barree.

There are fifty-five uniformed members in the band. Mr. Lester Garman is again band-leader, as he was at the time of the organization, a most informal one of women who made more money than they had thought possible and formed a group which is still as active as ever—"and they had lots of fun, too."

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Alexandria Memorial Public Library Auxiliary

The Alexandria Memorial Public Library Auxiliary was re-organized Sept. 27, 1939 with Miss Sue Phillips presiding. Mrs. Maud Dodd was the first president and Mrs. Mabel Moore the first vice-president. The purpose was to raise money for the benefit of the Library, accordingly Silver Teas, a Benefit Card Party, Group Luncheons, Bake Sales and White elephant Sales were held. The World Book Encyclopaedia was bought, the Children's Room was redecorated. A large number of garments, etc. were made for the Red Cross during 1943 and 1944. Three-quarters of the yearly dues has been spent annually for books. The membership is about 126.

Other activities sponsored by the Auxiliary have been the Story Hour for Children, the Book Club and the Botany Club. The Story Hour was started in October 1939 under Mrs. Mae Grove, being held at school. In September 1941 the children were taken to the Library for refreshments and to see the display of books. The committee—Mrs. Haring, chairman, Mrs. McKnight and Mrs. Grove—divided the children into two groups: grades 1-4 and 5-7. To advertise the Story Hour to children, a poster contest was held among them with prizes awarded on Founders' Day. In 1942 Mrs. McKnight held the Story Hour in the Library on Saturday afternoon. Attendance averaged between 15 and 20. There were a Christmas Party and an Easter Egg Hunt on the Saturday before Easter. In 1951 the time was changed to Fridays at 4 p.m. for children from four years old to those in Grade 6. The Auxiliary now pays the expenses of these parties and appoints special committees for managing them.



William P. Spyker Post 520 The American Legion

Within less than two years of the founding of the American Legion a small, but diligent group of returned veterans had determined that Alexandria, should have a post. Despite the multitudinous problems that invariably accompany the initiating of any new organization, thirty-three signatures had been affixed to the charter. Thus, on the evening of 1 August 1920, in Alexandria, Pennsylvania the William P. Spyker Post 520, the American Legion was officially organized. The club was named in memory of William Piper Spyker who had been seriously wounded in action in the Argonne Forest in October 1918 and died within a few days. William Spyker was the only soldier from this area to have died from wounds resulting from action with the enemy.

Membership in the post was necessarily

limited due to the strict requirements for membership—having served in the Army during the period of actual fighting. Despite this, however, membership numbered in the twenties during the first decade of the Post's existence. As time passed, members moved from this vicinity, and although many of them retained their membership in the Post, their attendance at meetings became virtually impossible. But, the persistence and efforts of those who did remain in the area made it possible for the Post to continue to exist and gradually grow in membership.

The group met in many and divers places during the pre World War II period . . . the lodge room of the POS of A over Phillip Piper's Store (this room was heated by a coal stove and on meeting nights one of the members would carry coal from his own stockpile and build the fire); the Memorial Public Library basement, Ralph Isenberg's Barber Shop, Cloyd Grove's Hardware Store, Nick Kipondi's restaurant, the Van Tries restaurant near Union Furnace, Woolverton's cabin, and the homes of various members. On several occasions, however, cottages were rented.

Each Armistice Day a banquet was held. Tickets were sold for these events and the meals were served in the various churches in town and on several occasions at Kipondi's restaurant. It seems that members, their families and friends turned out in better numbers for these pig-roast, ham and turkey dinners than they did for the meetings. During hunting season, too, various outings were held.

Since the chartering of the Post, the Memorial Day ceremonies have always received the special attention of the Post. The placing of flags on the graves of all deceased veterans in this area has covered the Methodist Cemetery on Pine Hill, the Hartslog Valley Cemetery, the old cemetery above the Waterstreet Inn, Shaffersville Cemetery, the Presbyterian cemetery on the old Herncane farm, the Hamer's Woods Cemetery, and the Neff Cemetery.

With the ending of World War II and the large influx of persons who had become eligible for membership in the Post, membership began to increase. The first WW-II members were admitted in 1944. Since then, membership has increased yearly from the old time low of 13 in 1933 to an estimated 215 for the current year. With larger membership the problems that had been existent for years became magnified and new problems presented themselves. The need for a regular meeting place was one of the first problems to be considered. In January 1947 the Post rented the old Sandwich Shop on the Knode property. Now, for the first time the Post had a regular meeting place and home. As more funds be-

came available, the appetite for a more permanent and comfortable home was whetted. Finally, after much discussion, planning and re-planning, ground was broken in April 1950 for the present American Legion Home. By August it had been completed. During the summer of 1952 an additional wing was added and by July the building as it now stands had been completed.

During the fall of 1954 the Ladies Auxiliary, William P. Spyker Post 520 was, officially formed. Thus far, the ladies have more than demonstrated their value to the entire Post.

As the Post became financially solvent it became possible to increase greatly its services to the community. Contributions to the schools for sports activities, building improvements, Christmas baskets, awards to students, contribution to the churches, and Girl Scouts, sponsoring the Boy Scout Troop, contributing to the J. C. Blair Memorial Hospital, and increased donations to local and national charity drives were some of the means by which we have been able to contribute to the general welfare.

As the Post now approaches its thirty-fifth anniversary it is our fervent hope that those

phrases of the preamble of our constitution "... to make right the master of might; to promote peace and good will on earth ..." have been furthered and will continue to be furthered by our organization throughout the community, local, national and international, of mankind.



The Neff Cemetery Association

The Neff Cemetery Association was incorporated to maintain a suitable private cemetery and burial grounds, in Logan township near Petersburg. In 1911 the Board of Trustees was J. B. Kunz, J. C. Neff and G. M. Wakefield.



The Masonic Fraternity

The first Masonic Lodge in Pennsylvania west of the Susquehanna was that described by Harvey Allen in his "Bedford Village," the second was that in Huntingdon, the third was warranted in Alexandria in 1800, charter No. 85, vacated 1814. The following persons are mentioned: Samuel Marshall, W.M.; John Crawford, S.W.; John E. Buchanan, J.W.; James Maise, Lewis Mytinger, Joseph Cadwallader, William Moore, Thomas Provines, Robert Hunter, Andrew Magee, John Beatty, Thomas Whittaker.

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Juniata Valley Lions Club

The Juniata Valley Lions Club was organized in January 1948 and received its Charter from Lions International on March 9, 1948. There were 55 Chartered members, and the club was sponsored by the Huntingdon Lions Club. Since its organization, the Juniata Valley Lions Club has sponsored the Woodcock Valley Lions Club at McConnellstown and the Warriors Mark Lions Club at Warriors Mark.

The club has sponsored many projects since its organization in both the Alexandria and Petersburg Areas. Some of the projects that it has sponsored are: annual visit of Red Cross Bloodmobile, various charity fund raising campaigns, filling in of a play ground area at the entrance of Petersburg and placing of a fence around Athletic Field at the Juniata Valley High School in Alexandria. The club has also purchased approximately 50 pairs of glasses since its organization, for students of the Juniata Valley area.

The club own and operates the "Dinner Bell"

at the Huntingdon County Fair Grounds. It was purchased in 1949. It is operated annually and all profits are used for Community Betterment in the Areas.

Three members of the club have passed to their reward. A memorial tree has been planted in front of the Alexandria Methodist Church in memory of Lion Chester Baughman. Two trees will be planted in Petersburg in memory of Lions Mart Kirkpatrick and Philip Temple.

The following men have served as Presidents of the club: Clinton R. Irvin, Henry J. Stoudt, Donald C. Litzenberger, Marion E. Hohman, Melvin J. Feather, Fred A. Spancake, and Roy I. Grove.



Alexandria Volunteer Fire Company

The Alexandria Volunteer Fire Co. was organized in 1936 by a small group of men in the Community. The first piece of equipment owned by the Company was an old American LaFrance engine. In 1937 the Company pur-

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chased a Dodge 1½ ton pumper which is still in use today, along with a new Dodge pumper costing \$12,000, which was purchased in 1949.

The first meetings were held in the basement of the Alexandria Library. An old barn was soon purchased and converted into a modern Fire Hall which is in use today. Much of the activity of the Community centers around this edifice.

The Company owns two public address systems which are loaned to the different events which take place in the community.

From a small organization the Company has grown until the membership today is approximately 200 men.

In 1937 the Ladies Auxiliary was organized. This organization is ever foremost in community activities.

The Company takes part in all community activities and is always willing to aid any and all persons in need.

The Company takes great pride in its accomplishments and looks forward to rendering still more valuable services in the future.



Ladies Auxiliary to Alexandria Fire Company

The Ladies' Auxiliary to the Alexandria Volunteer Fire Company was organized on June 16, 1938 with fourteen Charter Members. Its purpose and aim is to foster civic pride and to promote the social life of the community and to assist the Alexandria Volunteer Fire Company in every way possible. There are now 85 active members.



Hartslog Valley Grange

Hartslog Valley Grange No. 375 was organized November 6, 1874 in the Alexandria Odd Fellows Hall by Leonard Rhone of Centre county. Among the Charter Members were Mr. and Mrs. H. G. Neff, Mr. and Mrs. B. L. Neff, Mr. and Mrs. George Sprankle, Mr. and Mrs. Collins Hamor, James Allen, Roller Knode, W. W. Black, Joseph Knode and W. S. Huyette. After meeting in the Hall for about a year, the Grange moved to the old stone house on the H. G. Neff farm, using it as Grange Hall and store room for many years.

Later the Grange was moved to Mannasseh's Junction where it soon died from lack of proper organization and interest on the Granger's

part and opposition from those outside the Grange, who hooted at members for belonging to the "crude, badly managed" cooperative where each served himself from the stores and kept his own accounts in haphazard fashion. After the inevitable large deficit had been met, the Grange lay dormant for many years.

August 12, 1903 the Grange was reorganized by W. T. Boring, receiving a duplicate of the charter of 1874. Samuel Winters, J. S. McCauley, A. M. Allen, W. S. Huyette, C. M. Lankard, B. B. Miller and W. W. Black were among those present at the preliminary meeting in Odd Fellows Hall. Mrs. Jesse Chilcote is the sole surviving charter member of this reorganization, in token of which she has received a Golden Sheaf Certificate for fifty years of continuous membership.

In 1874 the membership is said to have been 27; it is now between 168 and 170. Many members have taken the higher degrees. The present Hall was dedicated October 28, 1924 with impressive ceremonies presided over by Worthy Master Yocum. Every year since the Huntingdon County Fair has been held, Grange No. 375 has had a booth and has won an award on every year that is was eligible—the Blue Ribbon may be won only every other year. It is now in process of building an addition to the Hall for greater usefulness to the community.



Hartslog I.O.O.F. Lodge

Hartslog Lodge No. 286—Independent Order of Odd Fellows was organized November 22, 1847. The Officers of the Lodge, whose names appear on the Charter, are as follows: N.G., John Huyette; V.G., Lewis Knode; N., Henry Graffius; A.N., Abraham Moyer; Treas., William Moore.

For a number of years, meetings were held in the building on Shelton Ave. now owned by Guy Lloyd. After a period of success at this location, the meeting place was changed to the second floor of the E. P. Walker estate building, now known as Bowser's Service Store. It was here that the Lodge enjoyed many years of prosperity and the enrollment was increased to approximately one hundred and twenty-five (125) members.

The Lodge then purchased the building on Main St. which is now occupied on the first floor by Shaffer Stores Co. and on the second floor by Hartslog Lodge No. 286, I.O.O.F.

Regular Lodge meetings are presently held at this site. The Independent Order of Odd

Fellows, of which Hartslog Lodge No. 286 is proud to be a part, was built on the principles of Friendship, Love, and Truth, and maintains Homes for the Aged, Widows, Orphans, etc. throughout Pennsylvania and the United States.

During the Civil War so many members enlisted that the charter was surrendered in 1864 and the lodge reorganized in 1872.



Alexandria Boy Scout Troops

John Lyon Porter, son of George Bucher and Sarah Lyon Porter, whose early boyhood was spent in Alexandria and in Pennsylvania Furnace, very early became interested in scouting. In 1911 he helped to organize the first Boy Scout in Tyrone and was scoutmaster of Troop No. 1 until 1922 when he was made executive of the Tyrone Boy Scout Council. This interest naturally extended to his Alexandria friends and relatives, whose interest in scouting he helped in innumerable ways.

The Alexandria Boy Scout Troop was formed about a year after that of Tyrone. Dr. Jim Brallier was the first scoutmaster from 1912 to 1913, his splendid work cut short by his tragic death in an automobile accident. John

Itinger took over from 1914 to 1917 with a troop of thirty-two boys. Harry W. Davis succeeded him in 1917. Dave Harshbarger followed, and then Dave Phillips, in 1924 or 1926, returned to Alexandria and was scoutmaster of a good sized troop. John Porter helped him with a camp near Whipple Dam, where they used tents made by the scouts themselves. Ernest Knott was the next scoutmaster, in 1927; Camp Espey was held on a farm near Spruce Creek. Phillip Pierce next acted as scout master for several years. Probably the camping at Seven Mountains was started about this time.

February 19, 1941 the Alexandria PTA sponsored Troop No. 11 under scoutmaster Eugene R. Eddy, with 24 boys. A year later, February 10, 1942, George Tennis became scout master with 21 boys; the next year the troop shrank to ten boys. The charter lapsed until January 31, 1948 when it was sponsored by the Methodist, Presbyterian and Reformed Churches. Both World War I and II were very hard on the scout troops as was inevitable. In 1948 and 1949 Donald Litzenberger was scoutmaster for 26 and 24 boys respectively. In 1950 there were only ten boys. January 31, 1952 the American Legion Post became the sponsor and Arthur Yocum the scout master, assisted by Lester

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Rishel. There were 30 scouts, including eight explorer scouts. July 31, 1953 C. N. Griffith became scoutmaster, with Richard Myers as assistant and the same number of scouts, but ten were "explorers." On July 31, 1954 Post No. 520 was still the sponsor, but Neal Giffin, Sr. was the scoutmaster, assisted by Leonard Layton. There were 24 scouts, four of them in the explorer group. In 1955 there are 34 scouts, eight of them in an explorer group under Les Rishel. Philip Deitz is the scoutmaster, assisted by Carl Conrad and Robert Porter.

In 1953 a Court of Honor was held in the Methodist Church under the direction of Frank Good; George Lightner received his Eagle badge. The scouts are helping to build their own Home, a Scout-Community Project, which is now in use. They have also organized a Mothers' Club to help in Scouting, Mrs. Foster being Chairlady of the Project. A camp is being built on land donated by Dr. D. C. Malcolm.



Cub Scouts

May 11, 1939 is the date of the application for a farm or Home Cub Den by R. D. Crissey, Paul J. Swigart, Ernest J. Knott and Payton Read, cubmaster. The sponsoring institute was the Alexandria PTA. Owing to the war there was a lapse of charter until January 1949 and change of number to Pack No. 24 under new sponsors—the Methodist, Presbyterian and Evangelical & Reformed Churches. C. J. Neubauer was cubmaster and Mrs. Margaret Neubauer was den mother, as were Miss Hazel Frazer, Mrs. Alma Leamer, and Mrs. Esther Kling. There were 16 cub scouts. On October 31, 1951 there was a change of date and of sponsor—Post No. 520 American Legion—but no lapse of charter.



Alexandria Girl Scout Troop

The Alexandria troop of Girl Scouts, one of the earliest in Huntingdon Co., met first in April 1918. Its founding as well as its sturdy growth are due to the sponsor, Miss Sue Phillips. Mrs. E. J. Knott (then Mary Hellyer) was her assistant.

The troop began with eight girls, the Red Clover Patrol, who found new interests in classes of nature study and simple astronomy under Miss Phillips. The Extension Department of State College, as it was then called, conducted weekly classes in sewing and cooking.

Public service was encouraged. Tickets were sold for Liberty Loan meetings and several hundred Memorial Day decorations were made.

The girls took turns in a service project entailing daily attendance—running errands, etc.—upon three elderly women living alone on the edge of town.

Mr. John Phillips, Miss Sue's father, generously provided a ten-day camping trip at the Harry's Valley Club House. Work, study and play made the time pass all too quickly, even though no nationally organized camp schedule was then available. The following year the first camp for training leaders was held in Massachusetts. Miss Phillips was one of the first to enroll for this added skill.

By the beginning of 1919 so many had applied for membership that two additional patrols and a "Little Scout" or "Cub Scout" subsidiary were organized. Definite work, and practice toward merit badges, was stressed. The oldest patrol was taught to help the "Little Scout" group. A day camp within hiking distance of town was maintained for two weeks in the summer. Here the small children enjoyed a full program of classes and games. This gave the older girls the training needed in the coming years when the opportunity to become leaders arose.

Plays, operettas, festivals were given to raise money for the summer camping trips. These were supervised by Miss Phillips in addition to the regular scout work.

During 1920 and 1921 four of the original scouts, near dismissal age, were promoted to lieutenancies to help with the weekly programs and the camps.

Miss Phillips' work for the scouts had become a full time job, but ill-health in her family forced her to give up this activity. No leader could be found to replace her and the scout movement in Alexandria was almost discontinued for a time.

Fortunately conditions as home permitted Miss Phillips to return to scouting in 1924 and to reorganize the local chapter with the national charter as by then required. Similar lapses have occurred since then, due to inadequate leadership, but the chapter has always soon been restored to its former constructive program.

From 1932 to 1934 an intensive plan was carried out in an effort to better meet the standard requirements of the national organization. The new rules and the greater number of scouts required additional assistants. This extended program added responsibilities that Miss Sue Phillips felt would be too great a tax; so, after eighteen years of fruitful service, she retired from the work.

Camp Barree, the first established camp in the United States to be owned and operated by

a group of small communities, which singly could not support such an undertaking, dominated the next several years. The committee, with the camp representative from national headquarters, chose the site located, about four miles from Barree, in Logan State Forest Reserve, permanently leased from the State. It is a beautiful, secluded, well-wooded spot near a small creek, which affords adequate water supply and, dammed at the outlet of a natural hollow, a lake for swimming and boating.

By January 13, 1938 a satisfactory lease was secured but estimated costs had risen from \$3500 to \$7500. This required more money-making activities to raise the additional quota.

On May 22, Camp Barree held open house to show off the main lodge, with kitchen and dining-room facilities, the troop house, six cabins, thirty tent floors, water piping, pier and float for the water-front. From July 3 to 29 girl scouts would enjoy the camping at a cost of eight dollars per week. There were—and are—five units: Puck's Knoll for "little folk," Fiddler's Green for "mariners," Orchis Valley where yellow orchis grow wild amid ferns, Conoadaw—the Indian unit, Hunter's Hill for Pioneers.

In 1944 an elaborate program celebrated the tenth anniversary of the starting of the camp. Its charms were listed as "sleeping under the stars; the sound of the wind in the trees and rain on a tent roof; the ringing of the dinner bell; the hikes and the cook-outs; the square dancing in the Lodge; campfires in the dusk of evening and singing around the fire; swimming in the lake and canoeing after supper!"

In 1947 Barree welcomed its first national encampment.

By May 6, 1953 the eight original girls had become sixty-one girls in 5 troops, who needed a place of their own for all meetings. Plans accordingly went forward for a new Scout House in Alexandria. The building was to be of concrete-block construction on a lot owned by the town council. This lot on Shelton Avenue borders on the old canal bed, the wall of which is almost intact—an incentive to the earning of flower-badges. The building is 20 feet by 35 feet, one large room with kitchen facilities. Each troop is given storage space. When not in use by the Scouts, the building is available to other Alexandria organizations.

To sum up, the Alexandria Girl Scout Troop is outstanding in the State for having been the second troop organized, for having the

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first girl to earn the Curved Bar, for a Scout House of its own as well as for its unique share in Camp Barree.

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Women's Auxiliary to the Blair Memorial Hospital

On January 12th, 1950 a small group of women from the Juniata Valley area, interested in the welfare of the county hospital at Huntingdon, met in the Alexandria Library and organized a women's auxiliary to the Blair Memorial Hospital. Mrs. Reese Prosser was elected the first president of this organization, with Mrs. Philip Temple as vice-president, Mrs. Henry Cresswell as secretary and Mrs. Roy Brownlee as treasurer. It was decided to name this group "The Juniata Valley Women's Auxiliary."

In the past five years since its organization this auxiliary has proven its worth to the hospital in many ways. Every year its membership numbers over a hundred women, all paying yearly dues of one dollar. The response of this membership to the work of the hospital has been inspiring—bake sales, bazaars, selling of small articles for profit, sponsoring concerts—always the support of the women of

the community has been there, enabling the organization to buy many useful articles for the hospital, to partially furnish one private room in the new wing and—the latest project—to completely furnish a semi-private room for three patients—which the executive committee hopes to complete this year at a cost of over nine hundred dollars.

A great deal of necessary mending of old garments and making of many new articles for the hospital has been done by the good seamstresses of the group. In the past two years this auxiliary has sent two women one day each month to work in the Snack Bar from ten o'clock in the morning to five in the afternoon.

The meetings are public, held four times a year on the fourth Tuesday evening of the month at 8 o'clock; the fall and winter meetings in the Alexandria Library and the spring and summer meetings in the Methodist church at Petersburg.

Mrs. Reese Prosser was president 1950-1952; Mrs. Guy Neff, 1952-1954; Mrs. Chester Tyson succeeded by Mrs. Wm. Ross 1954-1956. Throughout this time Mrs. Henry Cresswell has been the secretary and Mrs. Roy Brownlee the treasurer.

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ALEXANDRIA MEMORIAL LIBRARY

The Memorial Public Library of Alexandria, Pa. was given to the town by W. H. Woolverton and William Thompson. These men were full cousins and very good friends all their lives. Mr. Woolverton lived in New York and Mr. Thompson in Philadelphia, but both spent part of each summer in Alexandria.

In 1899 they decided to build a library which should be stocked and endowed by themselves for the benefit of the people of Alexandria and the surrounding country. This Library, managed for the good of the Community, would be free to all who would use it properly.

The building was designed by architect F. J. Shollar of Tyrone and built by J. C. Hall of Huntingdon. H. J. McAteer, John Phillips, E. P. Walker and Henry Knode were the building committee. The cost of the building was about \$16,000. In addition to this the cost of site, furniture and books brought the total to about \$20,000. The Library was endowed with an additional \$30,000, to provide for its care and to keep it stocked with books.

The first trustees were Rev. W. E. Stewart, H. J. McAteer, J. N. Hatfield, B. B. Miller, W.

S. Stryker, L. M. Hagerty, D. E. Murray, E. P. Walker, F. A. Rupley, Jr., and W. M. Phillips. Miss Elizabeth Walker was the Librarian and Elmer S. Isenberg the janitor.

The Library, given in memory of their mothers, has a bronze tablet on the wall.

The Library was supplied with 2,000 volumes comprising history, biography, books of reference and fiction. They were indexed by a system which prevents confusion and affords quick access to any volume wanted. In addition to the books the Library was supplied with the leading weekly and monthly magazines and the outstanding daily papers of the nearby cities.

After the death of Elizabeth Walker, the Librarian, her father, E. P. Walker, was appointed as librarian and served until his death in 1921. Miss Mary Walker, his daughter who had been his assistant, has been the Librarian ever since.

For the year ending December, 1954 there were 9,098 volumes and a total circulation for the year of 14,555.

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